



PENE FERGUSON MEIANZ CENVP  
SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL  
SAFEGUARDS SPECIALIST |  
WORLD BANK

Joined the Institute in 2003

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Environment Institute  
of Australia and  
New Zealand Inc.

*What prompted you to join EIANZ?*

I was an environmental consultant working in an engineering-centric company, and working in multi-disciplinary teams on infrastructure projects. I wanted to be able to have access to a wider network of local environmental professionals and exposure to international expertise, because of the limited pool of professionals within the company. Until EIANZ landed in NZ, there was no other local organisation or institution that met the needs of professionals undertaking impact assessment and environmental science.

*What do you value most about being a member?*

Inspiration from the work and expertise of the members and the opportunity to inspire students and young professionals, from being part of a network. The code of ethics and professional conduct are really useful to ground us in the work we do and the advice we provide as consultants.

*What do you find most rewarding about a career in the environment sector?*

The knowledge that infrastructure and development projects are better for people and the environment because of the influence I can bring. By doing meaningful consultations and engaging stakeholders, accurately assessing and mitigating impacts and building relationships with clients to persuade them to do things differently, we can reduce the overall impacts or, in the best cases, creating long term environmental and social benefits from projects.

*What advice would you give to recent graduates just starting out in the environment sector?*

Never lose sight of why you work in the environment sector – keep connected to the natural world as a constant reminder of its fragility and uniqueness (go skiing, plant trees, walk beaches). Be prepared to have your integrity and ethics challenged, but find people who will have your back and know that it’s your job to stick up for the environment. Work on your team play and your persuasive skills. Learn the language of business, politics or engineering, so you can break down barriers and effectively engage with the decision makers. Find a guru or expert you admire and don’t be shy to ask for support and mentoring. If you don’t land your dream job straight away, don’t worry – just work hard, deliver, find the right people to work with and the opportunities will appear.

Celebrating  
**30**  
years

1987 - 2017