

# Exploring stakeholder expectations from Impact Assessment literature

EIANZ Symposium

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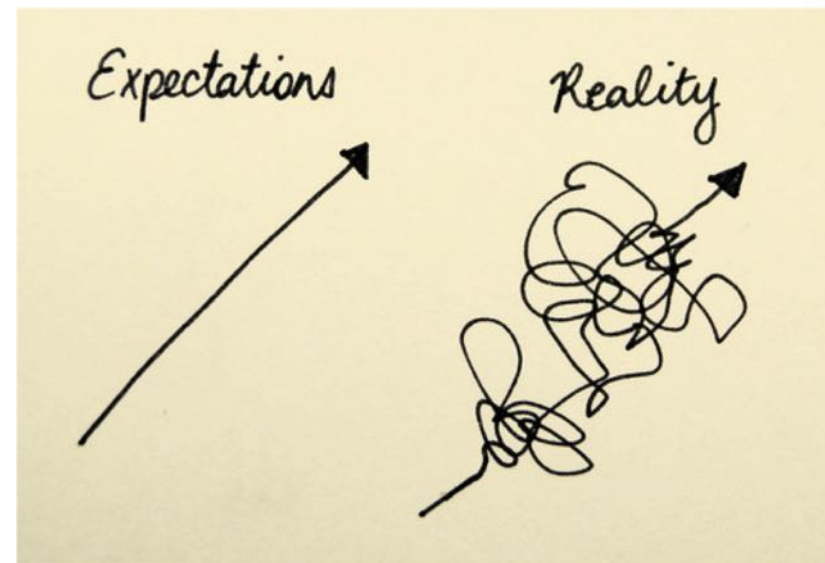
# Background

‘The objectives of EIA depend on the lens through which it is viewed’ (Noble, 2015; p.5)

A plurality of views exists on what EIA is expected to provide to different stakeholders.

Despite this, explicit research on stakeholders’ expectations of IA has been limited.

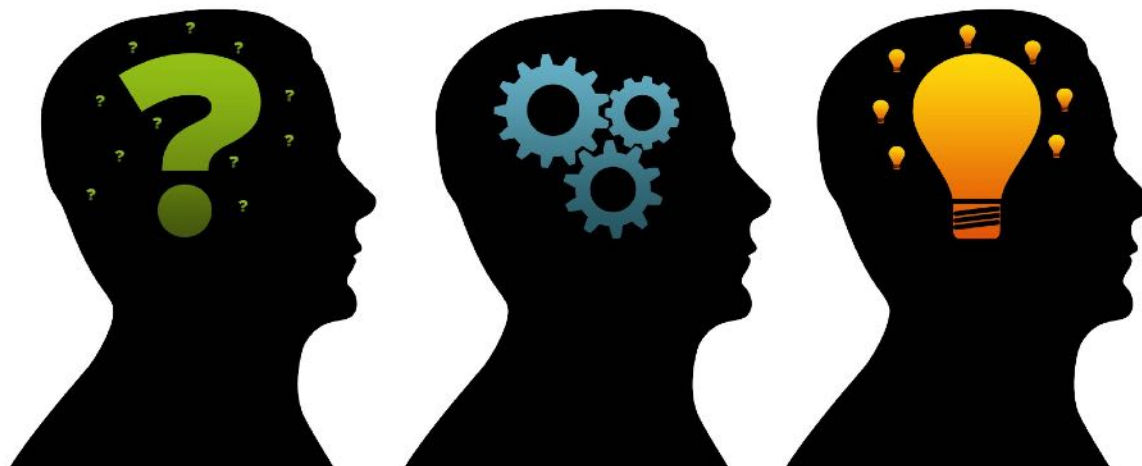
This potentially results in expectations being implicitly assumed.



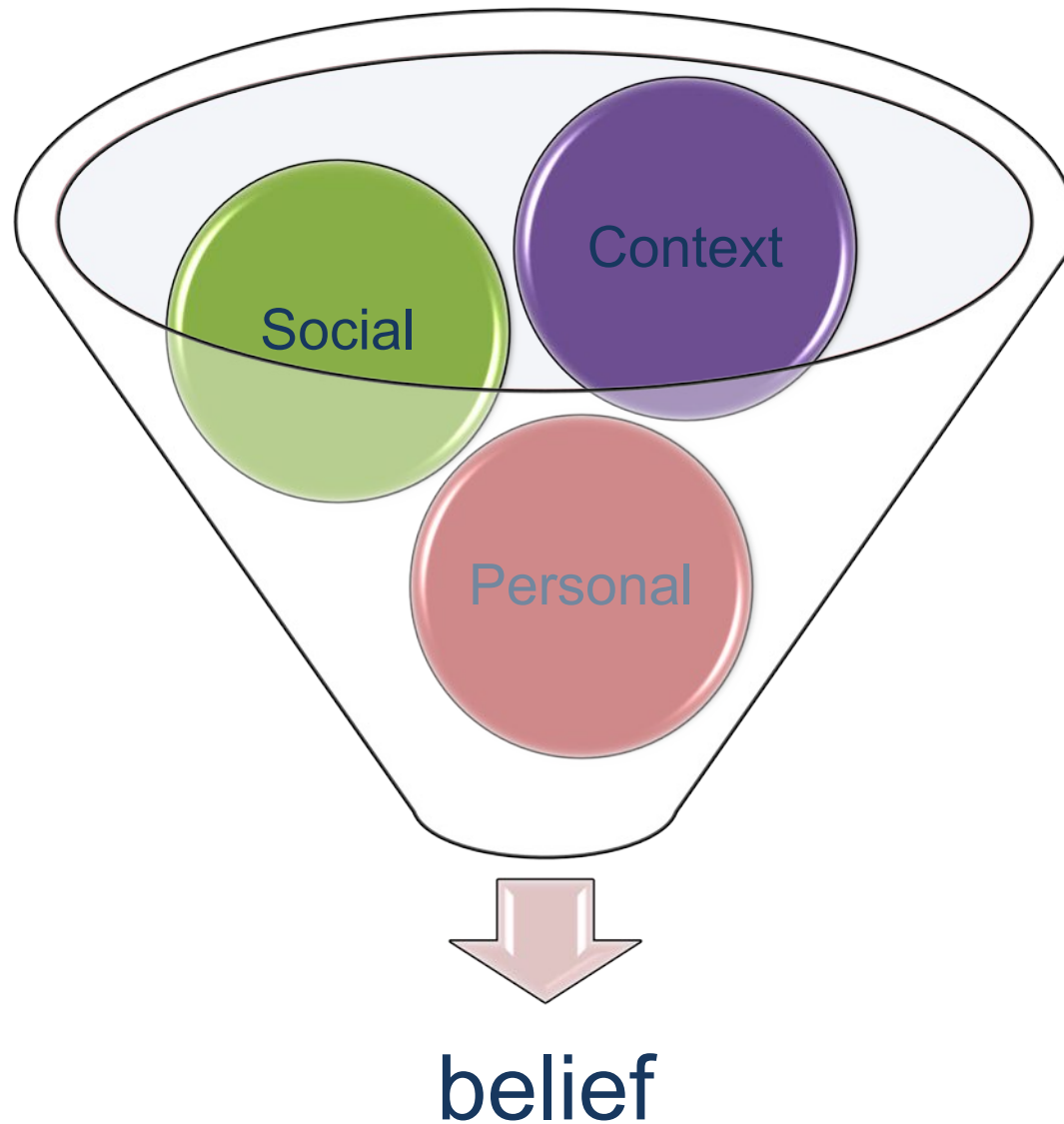
# Conceptualising expectations

Definition of expectations are numerous and diverse (Huron, 2008; Sitzia & Wood, 1997).

An expectation is *'a belief that something should happen in a particular way, or that someone or something should have particular qualities or behaviour'* (Macmillan Dictionary, 2017).

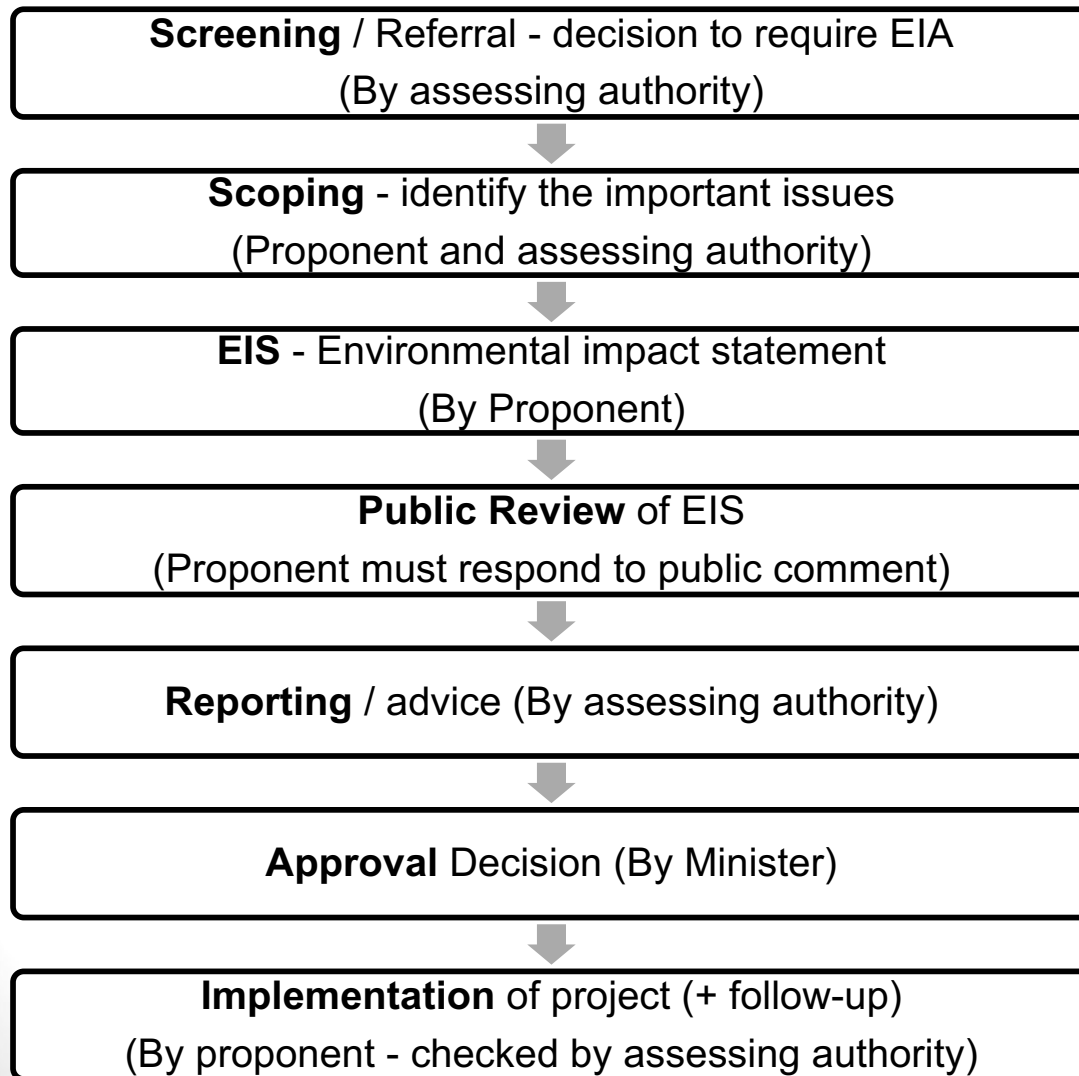


# Conceptualising expectations



# Stakeholders throughout the process

## Basic EIA process



## Stakeholders

Proponent, regulator

Proponent, consultants,  
regulator

Proponent, regulator,  
consultants, researchers,  
community, non-government  
organisations

Regulator

Proponent, regulator,  
consultants, researchers

# Literature review process

## 1. Traditional literature review to draw out stakeholder expectations

- Following useful citations back and forward in time.
- Focus on EIA, but incorporating studies from the wider IA literature where appropriate.

## 2. Systematic review of methodology of empirical research methods



# Professional expertise

12 key references identified:

- 9 x book chapters
- 2 x reports
- 1 x training manual

Publication dates range from 1984 – 2015

Identify stakeholder types and typical roles

Provide generalisations and hypotheticals

# e.g. Generalisation

**Table 8.1** Objectives of different participants in EIA.

Developer	Decision-authority	Local resident	Local environmental group
Speed decision process	Resolve conflict so as to reduce appeals	Stop or delay an unwelcome proposal	Stop or delay an unwelcome proposal
Ensure a focus on significant issues	Speed implementation process	Input local knowledge to the decision process	Input detailed knowledge to decision process
Reduce or eliminate protest	Add to professional knowledge	Ensure personal interests are protected	Ensure alternative knowledge and expertise is input to decision
Bring people onto their side	Introduce additional information and knowledge to the decision process	Change proposals to minimize personal and community disbenefits	Protect local environmental objectives
Ensure control over the information process	Provide an additional check on project proponents	Provide a check on local decision authority	Provide a check on local decision authority
Enhance company/organisational image	Enhance confidence of politicians to take a decision	Ensure people are listened to	Protect broader environmental objectives of the group and affiliated groups
Ensure a permission to develop	Inform and educate people about the development/ planning process		



# e.g. Hypothetical

A proponent (developer)	Decision- authority	Members of a local community  (local resident)	Environmental NGO  (local environmental group)
Time-consuming and expensive	A tool for planning and decision-making	A public relations tool used by developers and politicians to justify decisions	A tool to improve stakeholder involvement in development decision- making
Regulatory hurdle that must be overcome in order to receive development approval	A participative and deliberative process designed to facilitate public debate about development priorities.	A way to ensure the accountability of developers	A means of preventing development from proceeding
A means of improving project design	A means for the public to influence government decisions.	A means of local concerns being taken into account during the development process	A "rubber stamp" when it is unsuccessful in doing so
Earning a social licence to operate			

# Empirical research

35 research studies identified:

- 32 x articles
- 3 x reports

Publication dates range from 1983 – 2018

Sub-categories:

- i. Third-party perceptions
- ii. Specific stakeholder perceptions within a particular jurisdiction and
- iii. Specific stakeholder group perceptions within a particular phase of IA.

# (i) Third-party perceptions

International Summit on Environmental Assessment: Final Report, 1994

Series of workshops with EA managers from 25 countries and 6 international organisations

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Decision-makers	Managers and practitioners	Members of the public
Process takes too long	Results of their work are not always taken into account in the final decisions	Process excludes them from participating in decisions that affect them
Appears to cost too much and is unnecessarily complicated	Lack of time and resources to do an adequate job	Large amounts of complex scientific data but few straightforward explanations
Does not always give them the kind of information needed to make a sound decision		

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Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office, & IAIA, 1994

## (ii) Specific stakeholder group perceptions within a particular jurisdiction

A number of research studies in this category

Utilise case studies, questionnaires and interviews

Often concentrate on decision-makers and practitioners perceptions

Often make a determination on how effectiveness the EIA process is procedurally

### (iii) Specific stakeholder group perceptions within a particular phase of IA.

A number of research studies in this category, primarily associated with public participation phase

Utilise case studies, questionnaires and interviews

Often concentrate on local residents (the public)

Often make a determination how the public participation process was perceived by those involved

# Contribution to strategic engagement with the community and stakeholders

All phases of the process, stakeholders and levels of IA are of interest.

To fully understand stakeholder expectations further research is required by engaging with number of different stakeholders at different levels of IA.

Utilising the dimensions of effectiveness (Bond et al. 2015; Pope et al., *submitted*) to explore potential expectation types of different stakeholders.

# Thank you, any questions?

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