



FROM THE BOARD

Covid-19 Statement

On behalf of the EIANZ Board, this statement expresses support for all those who are adjusting their lives to slow the spread of COVID-19, who are caring for others, who continue to deliver essential services, and, who are experiencing the difficulties associated with the pandemic.

This statement also recognises the importance of managing the environment despite the challenges associated with the pandemic. As we move into economic recovery, our role as environmental practitioners will become even more important as industry, government and regulators try to balance the benefits of a rapid economic recovery with potential impacts on the environment.

Economic recovery based on environmental degradation will be short-lived. Australia and New Zealand have the expertise and resources to build jobs and the economy in ways that protect our environment and the ecosystem services it provides. Environmental practitioners have an important role to play in facilitating recovery in a sustainable way.

EIANZ will continue to provide access to professional development opportunities that support our understanding of the environment and its contribution to this recovery. For example, the IUCN has provided some suggestions relating to broader issues that may be of interest. They have recommended the Post Carbon Institute course on **Think Resilience** which is being offered for free. This course offers short introductory talks that accompany each module, provides background reading in the form of short articles and books that enable us to understand how we got to where we are and what we can do about it.

[Read more and register here >](#)

The IUCN also recommends the following webinar on “**COVID-19: Rethinking our relationships with wild animals & wild places**” might be of interest.

[Read more and register here >](#)

To reduce the likelihood of future pandemics, we need to rethink our relationship with wild animals and wild places. We need to change behaviours and practices to mitigate human risk while minimising ecosystem disruptions, allowing the environment to perform its innate buffering services. The value of keeping ecosystems that bump up against human activity intact cannot be overemphasised. Just as we have created the conditions that led to the current pandemic, we can create the conditions to minimise future risks.

While this pandemic is a crisis, it is also an opportunity to improve the way we do things towards a more sustainable future. We welcome your input on ways EIANZ can serve the environment profession in these challenging times.

Stay safe, stay connected.

The EIANZ Board

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Environment Institute
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