

INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

EIANZ STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES

The EIANZ Board is proud to share with you the Institute's Statement of Objectives for Indigenous Engagement. Launched today, at the start of National Reconciliation Week in Australia, the statement strengthens our commitment to engage with Indigenous Peoples across Australia and New Zealand.

As the body representing environmental practitioners, the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand acknowledges that current environmental assets are a legacy of stewardship by the Indigenous Peoples of both countries. EIANZ appreciates the long prior history of indigenous land, water and sea management, and respects the traditional knowledge and connection to country embodied in that history.

The environment profession shares an affinity with the indigenous concepts of 'caring for country' and Kaitiakitanga (resource guardianship and stewardship). In recognition of the close association between the natural environment, cultural values and indigenous communities, and the importance of these links to current society and future generations, the EIANZ seeks closer engagement with the traditional custodians of the land in Australia and New Zealand.

Accordingly, the EIANZ Board resolves to initiate the development of an Indigenous Engagement Plan, with a long-term goal of an inclusive profession that through collaboration, mutual learning and partnerships seeks to achieve better environmental management. A more immediate objective is the encouragement of environmental practitioners in a process of respectful listening and developing our understanding of the role of indigenous values and environmental management practices, integrated in the work of the environment profession. One consequence of this engagement will be enhanced career opportunities in the environment profession for Indigenous People.

The Institute requires that environmental practitioners are committed to practicing in accordance with **EIANZ's Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct** and accept personal accountability for professional conduct. EIANZ is committed to recognising indigenous values and practices in its Code of Ethics.

Across National Reconciliation Week, join EIANZ as it hosts two webinars. On Thursday 28 May, Dark Emu author and Yuin, Bunurong and Tasmanian man, Bruce Pascoe will explain how the environment profession needs to better understand and draw on 65,000 years of Aboriginal knowledge of land management if we are to restore our environment and set Australia on a sustainable path.

Find out more and register >

On Tuesday 2 June, Lauren Butterly, Senior Solicitor at the Environmental Defenders Office will discuss legislation concerning indigenous heritage and the current reforms taking place in state based mechanisms around Australia.

Find out more and register >

National Reconciliation Week is a time to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation. EIANZ is committed to creating nations strengthened by respectful relationships between environmental practitioners and Indigenous Peoples.

The EIANZ Board

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Environment Institute
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