



# RECOVERING FROM DISASTER

EIANZ VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) is committed to the protection and enhancement of our world for current and future generations. We must embrace the best scientific knowledge available to us and act to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

We have all seen the impacts of climate change and how they have been increasing in intensity and frequency within our own lifetimes. Sir David Attenborough recently published his Witness Statement on what he has observed over his 94 years and identified the critical condition that we have placed ourselves in, but also recognised that there is hope for improvement if we accept the science and act now.

We are now in the final reaches of the UN Decade for Biodiversity, which will draw to a close with 2020. The biodiversity of Australia and New Zealand is at risk from climate change and, indeed, the world saw the first mammalian extinction caused by climate change in Australia in 2019, the Bramble Cay melomys (*Melomys rubicola*). Lest this be the first of many, we must change our behaviours.

Climate change induced refugee movement will increase around the world as sea-levels rise and events become more intense with time. Australia has already seen its first relocation of a community caused by climate related impacts: the town of Grantham in Queensland was relocated from a flood plain to a nearby higher ground, following the devastating flooding in 2011, which caused extensive damage and loss of life.

We must invest in renewables and transition away from more traditional sources of energy. Technologies are developing and improving constantly, which provides more economical sources and options for our energy needs. The EIANZ commends the work that New Zealand has been doing in this space with a target of 100% renewable energy by 2030, which is currently in excess of 80%.

The Board of the EIANZ says “without effective engagement with environmental practitioners, the governments of Australia and New Zealand will not be in a position to effectively fight climate change in our region. We must provide adequate resources for this challenge and invest in the technology required for our nations to provide a safe place for our biodiversity and human populations”.

As environmental practitioners, our members and Certified Environmental Practitioners (CEnvP) are well placed to assist the governments and industries to identify and promote effective environmental management to slow the effects of climate change on our built and natural environments. The Institute encompasses the Climate Change Special Interest Section, as well as specialist certification in climate change.

We invite you to join us for our Annual Conference online, this year focussing on Recovering from Disaster. This week's session on Wednesday, 4th November will be facilitated by Tom Davies. We will hear from Amanda McKenzie, CEO of the Climate Council, on finding hope after disaster, and Professor David Bowman, from the University of Tasmania, who will share his thoughts on how pyrogeographic thinking is the key to tackling the global fire crisis.

**Learn more & register >**

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