



# 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. Effective environmental and social impact assessments are critical to managing ecologically sustainable development to minimise the impacts of humans to our environment.

July 2020 saw the opportunity for comments to be made on the Samuel Review of the Australian Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act). The EIANZ recognises that this is a critical piece of legislation that is vital to the protection of the Australian environment. The EIANZ **submitted a response** to this review which included reference to strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and provided recommendations into areas for the Act to improve upon:

- [Bio]regional planning
- Strengthening strategic assessments
- Cumulative impacts
- Matters of national environmental significance
- Standards for assessment
- Implementation

The benefits of SEA are considerable both in terms of its potential to achieve environmental sustainability and facilitate more streamlined regulation. Transparency about decision-making and clarity about where and what environmental values should be protected are products of a robust SEA process.

The Board of the EIANZ says “strategic environmental assessments undertaken by suitably qualified environmental and social impact assessment practitioners is key to effective environmental outcomes for our planet. We must continue to collaborate with our State and Federal governments to ensure that assessments are adequately designed and undertaken for maximum environmental outcomes”.

To provide effective assessments, we must embrace traditional knowledge and work with First Nations peoples to ensure traditional techniques are incorporated into modern challenges. The EIANZ is working towards increased engagement with First Nations groups across Australia and New Zealand.

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 Impact Assessment Special Interest Section, as well as specialist certification in impact assessment.

We invite you to join us for our Annual Conference online, this year focussing on Recovering from Disaster. This week’s session on Wednesday, 11th November will be facilitated by Lachlan Wilkinson. We will hear from Charles Kelly on how the COVID pandemic is affecting the environment profession, and Dr Sheridan Coakes and Pam Dean-Jones on applying the sustainable livelihood approach to disaster recovery.

**Learn more & register >**

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