



Environment Institute
of Australia and
New Zealand Inc.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY OFFSETS CONFERENCE 2.0 2022 CANBERRA

Keynote address by Professor Graeme Samuel AC

In 2019 the EIANZ hosted the first national conference on biodiversity offsets. Since then, biodiversity offsets continue to play a central role in countering significant residual impacts from deleterious actions on matters of national, state or local environmental significance.

Many regulatory agencies were either reviewing their biodiversity offset frameworks, developing new offset frameworks or had recently commenced the application of new systems in 2019. How successful have those new and emerging frameworks been in achieving positive outcomes? What experiences and learnings are there from the establishment of offset markets? What role has local government played in developing and implementing biodiversity offset policies?

In 2020 Professor Graeme Samuel's Independent Review of the EPBC Act recommended that *"Immediate changes are required to the environmental offsets policy to ensure that offsets do not contribute to environmental decline"*.

Controversy continues to revolve around the effectiveness of current approaches. Since the last conference there have also been questions raised about ethics in the biodiversity offsets sector.

The time is right to meet again for a national forum on biodiversity offsets to reflect on where we have come from in 2019 and to aid in shaping the future of environmental offsets in Australia. This event will provide an opportunity to:

LEARN from academics, the legal fraternity, industry and those involved in offset markets;

SHARE the experiences from all levels of government;

HEAR from individuals and industry involved in the hands-on delivery of offsets;

DISCUSS biodiversity offsets at the local government scale;

CONSIDER how the mitigation hierarchy is addressed in current policy frameworks;

EXPLORE learnings about the operation of offset markets; and

DEBATE ethics in the biodiversity offsets sector.

This conference will interest policy makers, regulatory authorities, academics, offset brokers, environmental practitioners, offset providers and the legal fraternity.

Participants will receive an understanding of the evolving field of biodiversity offsets and an opportunity to participate in the closing session aimed at identifying priorities for biodiversity offset policy, science, markets and delivery in Australia.

DATE 26 - 28 July 2022 | **VENUE** Hotel Realm, 18 National Circuit, Canberra ACT 2600

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