

DRAFT MINUTES



MEETING DATE	17 November 2023	
TIME	1:00pm -2:00pm AEDT	
LOCATION	Via Zoom	
ATTENDEES	Vicki Brady Paul Keighley Elizabeth Stark Diane Dowdell Jonathon Miller Shannah Brown Stephanie Brown Terry Calmeyer Alan Chenoweth Michael Chilcott Emma Cornelius Bronwyn Dwyer Joanne Flint Melissa Harrison Natalie Heller Zena Helman Michael Hewson David Hogg Lisa Holmblad Nicolas Israel	David Johnson Hillary Johnston Martin Juniper Kelly Kane Colm Kennedy Chantal MacKenzie Neil Marshman Ropafadzo Moyo Toni Munro Viviane Passos Santos Marion Pennicuik Tony Platts-Baggs Justine Quinn Helen Ross Geraldine Squires Greg Steenbeeke Kevin Tearney Lachlan Wilkinson Olivia Williamson Jon Womersley Simon Young Berryman
ATTENDING BY PROXY	Mark Breiffuss Fiona Gainsford R Scott Hanna Kelly Le	
APOLOGIES	Diane Buchan Simon Leverton Simon Molesworth Isobel Oldfield Russell Tait	
OBSERVERS	Rosanna Hunt Kathy Knight Jennie McClements Narelle Mewburn	
MEETING OPENED	1:05pm AEDT	

WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND PROXIES

Vicki Brady FEIANZ CEnvP, President, gave an Acknowledgment of Country and welcomed people to the meeting. Apologies and proxies were noted.

Declaration of conflicts of interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The draft minutes from the 2022 Annual General Meeting were accepted.

MOTION:	That the draft minutes of the 2022 EIANZ AGM be accepted.			
CARRIED	MOVED:	Jon Womersley	SECONDED:	Marion Pennicuik
	IN FAVOUR:	Majority	AGAINST:	None recorded

REPORTS

President's Report

Vicki Brady FEIANZ CEnvP presented a report on the activities and achievements of the Institute over the past 12 months including:

- **INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT**
 - Implementation of Reconciliation Action Plan is underway. EIANZ has established an efficient network of RAP Facilitators in each Australian Division, enabling us to engage and make progress in accordance with our defined responsibilities and activities.
 - Since September 2022, the RAP Implementation Group has convened five times. To date, 30 deliverables have been either completed or are in progress, representing 12 of the 17 RAP Actions.
 - The Indigenous Engagement Working Group developed new guidelines alongside the Fellow and Honorary Member Review Committee to allow for the nomination of non-conventional Indigenous environmental practitioners.
- **ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION**

The Institute developed 27 submissions and position statements this year. These included:

 - Responses to the revised Environmental Factor Guideline for Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Draft Forest Management Plan for the period 2023-2033.
 - Position submitted to the New Zealand government regarding the Natural and Built Environment Act (NBEA), scheduled for release in November 2023.
 - Institute responded to Treasury's climate-related financial disclosure Discussion Paper.
- **ANNUAL CONFERENCE**
 - Our first in-person conference in three years saw over 140 delegates attend.
 - The theme was 'Shaping the Future of the Environment Profession'.
 - As part of the Board's commitment to fostering inclusivity and engagement among our diverse membership we proudly took the annual conference to Townsville.
- **EVENTS**
 - 114 professional development events including 30 webinars and online events. Total event attendance for the year was 6,148.
 - Increased the prominence of our online events portfolio post-COVID and made some previously in-person events available in a hybrid format.
 - National Biodiversity Offsets Conference keynote speakers were a highlight – Professor Graeme Samuel AC, Dr Ken Henry AC and The Hon. Tanya Plibersek MP.
 - Two Impact Assessment Symposiums expanded to include specialist streams on social impact assessment, impact assessment, and strategic assessment and bioregional

- planning.
 - The inaugural Environmental Accounting Symposium delved into approaches to accounting for regenerative business practices through environmental and social systems thinking.
- MEMBERSHIP
 - EIANZ had 2,109 members as of 30 June 2023, a 0.66% decrease. This was as a result of some large corporate memberships renewing late. These have been followed up and we now have 2216 active members.
 - SEQ still has the most members, but NSW is quickly catching up.
 - 1,620 of our members are Full Members, our largest category.
- CERTIFICATION
 - Record total of 1,169 certified practitioners as of 30 June 2023, a 7.8% increase.
 - 125 new practitioners certified.
 - NSW has the most CEnvPs with 354 and New Zealand is batting above their weight, coming in third place.
 - Introduced social impact assessment certification, a global first for the sector. This represents a significant milestone for social practice by giving SIA practitioners the opportunity to be certified.
 - The year saw the start of the broader review of certification requirements. The full-time equivalent experience requirement for all specialisations was amended from 15 years to 17 years. This allows part-time workers and those returning to the workforce from a long leave period to meet required work experience.
- SOCIAL MEDIA
 - LinkedIn following grew to 18K.
 - Followers continue to grow on other platforms – 2.6K Facebook, 1.4K Twitter, 547 Instagram.
 - The weekly member newsletter, the Institute Insider, has seen increased engagement with an average open rate of 51% - a great success by industry standards.
- PARTNERSHIPS

This year we formed new partnerships with like-minded organisations including:

 - The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).
 - The New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment (NZAIA).
 - The National Environmental Law Association (NELA).
- CHAPTER AND DIVISIONS
 - Chapters and Divisions continued to provide valuable professional development, networking, and mentoring opportunities to members.
 - The majority of Divisions and the Aotearoa New Zealand Chapter actively participated in a formal mentoring program this year.
 - 122 mentoring pairs across the Institute in 2022-23.
- SPECIAL INTEREST SECTIONS
 - Special Interest Sections (SISes) continue to do important policy and advocacy work across the Institute.
 - EIANZ has active SISes covering Climate Change, Ecology, Heritage, Environment Accounting, and Impact Assessment.
 - If you have an interest in any of these areas and aren't involved with your SIS you are encouraged to reach out using the contact details on the website.

- Student and Early Careers Committee (SECC)
 - The SECC held in-person events held across the Divisions and the NZ Chapter.
 - SECC events included trips, networking, Mentoring Program meet-ups, technical talks on legislation changes, university days, and social events.
 - SECC also led the introduction of EIANZ student travel grants.
 - Travel grants allocated to seven students and early career members from across the Institute to attend the 2023 Annual Conference in Aotearoa New Zealand.

- AJEM
 - Acknowledgement of Helen Ross HLMEIANZ who, after nearly 19 years as Managing Editor/Co-Editor, has expressed her wish to stand aside. During her tenure, Helen guided the journal's increased international prominence and impact factor, transitioning it to a formal publisher, and implemented a more favourable financial model.
 - The Institute appointed Doctors Animesh Gain and Oliver Fritsch of Murdoch University as the journal's two new editors.
 - The journal received 160 full article manuscripts and short reports, as well as book reviews and editorials.
 - Twenty-three articles were accepted for publication, 17 from Australia and two from Aotearoa New Zealand.
 - The journal published 22 articles.

- Qualifications Accreditation Scheme (QAS)
 - The EIANZ Board appointed a new QAS Board representing both academic and professional interests in March 2023
 - Three undergraduate qualifications held accreditation by the Institute:
 - The University of Canterbury Bachelor of Environmental Science with Honours
 - RMIT University's Bachelor of Environment and Society
 - Griffith University's Bachelor of Environmental Science.
 - Several promising prospects for new accreditations.

- ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
 - The Central Office team plays a crucial role in the Institute's operations.
 - Executive Officer Nicole Brown bid us farewell after 10 years of exceptional service.
 - Our new Executive Officer Jonathon Miller was appointed in June 2023.
 - Created the role of Governance Officer.
 - Thank you Stephanie Brown FEIANZ CEnvP for your contributions as CEnvP Chair.
 - Thank you to Geraldine Squires MEIANZ CEnvP – IA for your contributions as Advisory Council Chair.
 - Thank you to Emeritus Professor Helen Ross HLMEIANZ for your outstanding contributions to AJEM, the IEWG and the QAS Board.
 - Thank you to Neil Marshman FEIANZ for your policy and climate change advocacy and leadership.
 - Congratulations to this year's Merit Award Winners and our new Fellows.
 - Congratulations to our new Honorary Life Members: Emeritus Professor Helen Ross HLMEIANZ and Dr Bryan Jenkins HLMEIANZ.
 - Thanks to the hundreds of volunteers across the Institute – contributions have been outstanding in another busy year – particularly those volunteers who have convened symposia and events.
 - Thank you to our Indigenous Engagement Working Group – co-chaired by Dr Alan Chenoweth HLMEIANZ CEnvP and Di Buchan HLMEIANZ CEnvP (Alumni) - for your outstanding work and leadership.

- Thank you to Adj Assoc Prof Jon Womersley HLMEIANZ CEnvP for your contributions as QAS Chair.
- Thank you to Lachlan Wilkinson FEIANZ CEnvP – IA and Fiona Gainsford FEAINZ CEnvP – IA + REAP for their work in securing new partnerships for the Institute.
- BOARD'S FORWARD PRIORITIES
 - Implementing our Strategic Plan 2024-27.
 - Some of the key goals in the Plan include continuing to shape environmental laws, policies and guidelines, building on our advocacy and representation work, and ensuring our governance and systems are contemporary and able to adapt.
 - Keen to continue building strategic stakeholder engagement including partnerships.
 - Committed to investment in the EIANZ's professional workforce and ICT systems.
 - Also committed to investing in further growing member value, and in assisting volunteers in the important work they do for the institute.

Treasurer's Report

Elizabeth Stark FEIANZ presented an overview of the financial performance of the Institute for the FY2022-23:

- A snapshot at 30 June 2023 shows:
 - Members equity \$1.94M
 - Total Assets \$2.72M
 - Surplus \$277K
- Members Equity and Total Assets have risen over the past 4-5 years, and surplus increased this year.
- COMMENTS ON FINANCIALS
 - Moderate increase in members equity from \$1.66M in 2021-2022
 - Equity greater than 50% of operating spend ensures the Institute has coverage of at least 6 months of operating costs.
 - Revenue from events and sponsorship were up by over 400% in 2022-23 thanks to our ongoing webinar program and flagship events.
 - Membership and certification revenue also rose, despite cost-of-living pressures.
 - Staff costs rose year on year but were under budget. This was due to delays and difficulty sourcing staff for ongoing positions such as the Communications Officer and Governance Officer
 - The EIANZ remains in a solid financial position to deliver services and improvements to Members.
- NEXT STEPS

Implement Strategic Plan 2024-27 including by:

 - Consolidating finances across all business units.
 - Increasing and diversifying revenue.

Acceptance of Reports

The FY 2022-2023 Financial Statements were accepted.

MOTION:	That the FY 2022-2023 Financial Statements be accepted.		
MOVED:	Marion Pennicuik	SECONDED:	David Johnson

CARRIED	IN FAVOUR:	Majority	AGAINST:	None recorded
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The FY 2022-2023 Annual Report was accepted.

MOTION:	That the FY 2022-2023 Annual Report be accepted.			
CARRIED	MOVED:	Diane Dowdell	SECONDED:	David Johnson
	IN FAVOUR:	Majority	AGAINST:	None recorded

BOARD ELECTION RESULTS

Vicki Brady FEIANZ CEnvP thanked outgoing board members for their hard work and substantial contributions to the Institute.

- Elizabeth Stark FEIANZ, outgoing Treasurer.
- Isobel Oldfield MEIANZ CEnvP, outgoing Vice President (New Zealand).

The Returning Officer, Jonathon Miller, reported that a call for nominations for EIANZ Board members was made in early September 2023 and closed on 3 October.

One nomination was received for each of the following Board positions, so each were deemed elected:

Role	Member
President	Vicki Brady FEIANZ CEnvP
Vice President (Australia)	Paul Keighley FEIANZ
Vice President (New Zealand)	Ian Boothroyd FEIANZ, CEnvP (Ecology)
Secretary	Fiona Gainsford, FEIANZ CEnvP (IA specialist plus REAP)
Treasurer	Diane Dowdell FEIANZ
Ordinary Member	Mark Breiffuss, FEIANZ CEnvP
Ordinary Member	Vacant

The Returning Officer confirmed that one nomination for the vacant position had been received prior to the start of the meeting and that nominations were about to close. He invited members present to nominate from the floor, pointing out that the appropriate paperwork was required with the nomination.

No further nominations were received, and the Returning Officer confirmed Melissa Harrison MEIANZ as the final Ordinary Member of the Board.

Q & A

The Board answered members' questions:

- As a member-based organisation, what is it that you are hearing from members that is their highest priority for EIANZ for the next 12 months?
 - Increase advocacy around EPBC Act Reforms and the National Environmental Standards.
 - EIANZ was offered two places at the consultation that the Federal Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water organised in Canberra. This was a great opportunity for EIANZ to continue advocacy in Canberra.

- Increase presence at technical events. This will be seen more in the events strategy with 4 planned over the next 12 months.
- The new AJEM editors are also interested to know what members think are the pressing issues for environmental management and policy and Hellen Ross invited members to contact her with their suggestions.
- What are the dates and venue for the next Annual conference?
 - It is likely to be held at the end of October in NSW, but nothing has been finalised yet. Trying to work around the Global Summit for Nature Positive that the Australian Government is hosting in Sydney. The Board has had several meetings with the Summit taskforce team to establish how EIANZ can work with that event so that the EIANZ Annual Conference does not clash and so that both events can be of mutual benefit.

MEETING CLOSED	1:45pm AEDT
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