

## Chair's Report 2022

At the time of writing this report we are about to hold the 2022 NZAIA conference, “*Wellbeing, Sustainability, and Impact Assessment: toward integrated policy-making*”. It is 18 months since our last conference, on SIA, held in Christchurch, and Covid-19 still hangs over such events to a certain extent so while we are making appropriate arrangements to manage the risk, we are still hoping the reported surge in cases will pass us by!

This year has seen two issues of *Impact Connector* planned, one looking impact assessment for infrastructure, the other addresses economic methods in impact assessment. The first has just been published and thanks are due to the editor Nick Taylor, and the various contributors to the issue. The second issue has been delayed but we hope to see it published early in 2023. There are exciting plans for future issues of *Impact Connector*, but we are always happy to hear from members, and the wider reading audience, about topics that would be of particular interest and value. Guest editors are also welcome: contact me if you are interested.

Our other major information service, the monthly e-news, continues to provide a very valuable resource that we all look forward to, and I must thank Kate McNab for the great work she does in producing the e-news. Kate also manages the NZAIA website and is very much responsible for building the resources posted on the site that together constitute a rich information base about impact assessment in all its main forms.

NZAIA did not make any formal submission this year, but with the recent introduction of the Natural and Built Environment Bill, and the Spatial Planning Bill, it looks like 2023 will be very busy. We are keen to enlist the assistance of our members in helping to develop submissions so keep an eye on our website and the e-news for invitations to get involved in specific submission processes. Also, if you think NZAIA should be making its voice heard about something involving impact assessment in some way, please let us know: email [admin@nzaia.org.nz](mailto:admin@nzaia.org.nz).

The strategic planning process, begun in Dec 2020, has been moving along, although we decided to suspend most activities in the last few months as conference organisation has been the priority. The review of policies has continued, with a revised Conference policy being tabled at this AGM for ratification. To encourage greater member engagement, a directory page has been created on the NZAIA website where members can post professional information for promotion purposes. The revision of the NZAIA constitution has coincided with the new Incorporated Societies Act, passed in April this year. This will require NZAIA to re-register under the Act by April 2026, which in turn will require our constitution to meet the requirements of the Act. This will involve significant changes in particular areas of our governance, especially the management arrangements, and the election/appointment of officers. A basic draft constitution based on the Act's requirements has been drawn up, but will need more specific development in coming months before we have a draft we can put in front of our members.

Last year we renewed our MoU with IAIA. This year has seen our MoUs with the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the EIANZ, specifically the Impact Assessment Special Interest Group, have been reviewed and revised where appropriate. I understand they have each been approved by our respective partners and should be signed before the end of the year.

# New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment

As my last year as Chair comes to a close I must thank all the current and past core group members with whom I've worked over the years for their collegial and highly supportive approach to the work of the Association. I'm very grateful for the support and professional contribution of my two officer colleagues, Sophal Chhun (who steps down as Secretary this year) and Andrew Crosland (Treasurer). Others who must be recognised: Kate McNab is central to our information and IT systems in so many ways, Nick Taylor is our editor in chief for *Impact Connector*, and Terry Calmeyer has proved invaluable as our social media guru (aided by Dy Jolly). And I'm not forgetting Rajan (well done finishing the PhD), Keith, Iresh, Hamish, Gillian, and Katherine, who have contributed this year either to our monthly meetings, or virtually when asked to take on particular tasks. Thank you all.

Finally, with the impending replacement of the RMA it looks like impact assessment in all its forms may need even stronger promotion and support to keep it front of mind as a critical decision-support tool. We will be involved in submissions next year: having the wider membership contributing will strengthen our arguments, so please get involved when the call goes out.

Richard Morgan

Chair, NZAIA

18th November 2022