

Name: _____



Conference Programme



About NZAIA

The purpose of the New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment is to promote the use, and better practice, of impact assessment.

The Association's activities include:

- Promoting the use of impact assessment to inform decision-making in New Zealand.
- Supporting the development of high ethical standards in impact assessment practices.
- Keeping impact assessment practitioners in touch with each other.
- Running conferences, training courses, and regional meetings on impact assessment themes.
- Representing New Zealand practitioners at the international level.

NZAIA evolved out of the Association for Social Assessment (and before that the SIA Network) and maintains an active social assessment component. Since incorporating as NZAIA in 1999, the Association's activities now embrace the full range of IA practices, from social, health and cultural impact assessment to ecological impact assessment, at project, plan and policy levels, and within a variety of statutory and non-statutory contexts. Its membership reflects this wider and diverse community of impact assessment practitioners.

- ❖ NZAIA has an MoU with the Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ), and in particular with the Special Interest Section on Impact Assessment, to promote joint activities.
- ❖ NZAIA has an MoU with the Secretariat of the Pacific regional Environment Programme (SPREP), to assist with EIA, SEA and IEA capacity development in the Pacific.

Core group members (2015)

Richard Morgan *Univ. Otago* [Chair]
Ben Payne *Mitchell Partnerships* [Treasurer]
Christine Cheyne *Massey Univ.* [Secretary]
Nick Taylor *Taylor Baines*
Rob Greenaway *R&R Consulting*
Ian Boothroyd *Boffa Miskell*
Hamish Rennie *Lincoln University*
James Baines *Taylor Baines*
Gerard Fitzgerald *Fitzgerald Applied Sociology*
Andrew Crosland *EPA*
Gillian Stewart *Co-Creationz Ltd*
Michael Mackay *Lincoln University*
Hannah Payne-Harker *University of Otago*
Jess Gerry *University of Otago*
Kerry Wynne *Massey University*
Harrison Burnard *Massey University*
Mohsen Mohammadzadeh *University of Auckland*
Sam Lang *Kellogg Rural Leadership Programme*

NZAIA is an affiliate of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), and personal membership of both associations is encouraged.

www.iaia.org

The objectives of impact assessment

- To ensure that social, cultural, health and biophysical considerations are explicitly addressed and incorporated into relevant decision making processes.
- To promote social justice and cultural integrity in the management of natural resources
- To ensure a long-term perspective on managing the effects of proposals
- To protect the capacity of natural systems and promote sustainable development

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NZAIA are dedicating this seminar to James Newell.

In February this year, NZAIA lost its long serving member and Treasurer, James Newell, who died suddenly while walking in the hills above Wellington. James was a key part of the Association and his colleagues in the core group were keen to find a fitting way to mark his contribution to the spirit and purpose of NZAIA.

The NZAIA 2015 conference organizing committee gratefully acknowledges the contribution of all the speakers and conference supporters.

Introduction to the Conference

The anticipation and management of impacts on the environment, society and the economy is growing in demand. Consequently, a large number of practitioners and administrators are involved with some form of impact assessment in this country. Yet surprisingly few have formal impact assessment training. At the same time impact assessment faces multiple financial, capacity, and quality assurance pressures, not least the pressures that result from incremental procedural changes to institutional arrangements over time.

The purpose of the conference is to carry out a broad stocktake of impact assessment in New Zealand, and see if we can answer three questions:

- what has been achieved with impact assessment in New Zealand,?
- what is our shared vision about the future practice of impact assessment?
- what practical steps can NZAIA take to support that vision?

Impact assessment was formally introduced into New Zealand in the 1970s, an era of large energy projects. The significant introduction of the Resource Management Act in 1991 devolved most decision-making to local and regional authorities, and made impact assessment (“the assessment of environmental effects”) an integral part of the resource consent processes, within a policy framework of sustainable management of natural and physical resources. Impact assessment is critical to meeting the purpose of the Act, to consider the potential environmental, social, cultural and health implications of proposals and inform people and communities likely to be affected. Just a few days ago the Government introduced the latest set of proposed amendments to the RMA, signalling another round of “streamlining” intended in part to speed up certain processes and release the perceived brake on decision processes for smaller applications, especially housing-related proposals. There are also proposals to amend the EEZ (Environmental Effects) Act and the Environmental Protection Authority Act 2011.

Past amendments to the RMA and other pieces of legislation have tended to focus on procedural issues. However, Lynton Caldwell, one of the key “architects” of the US National Environmental Policy Act 1970, emphasised the essential inter-dependence of the *procedural* and *substantive* components of that legislation if it was to achieve its purposes. In a similar way, NZAIA has as a principal objective to improve the quality of assessment *practice*, as a means for ensuring the intent of the statutory processes is met.

In addition to the assessments of effects under Resource Management Act, impact assessment is used in a variety of other contexts and forms in New Zealand, both statutory (e.g. recreation concessions in the conservation estate, and resource development in the EEZ) and non-statutory (e.g. health impact assessments of urban growth strategies or sustainable development under the Post-2015 agenda). The Cabinet use regulatory impact statements to inform their decisions on proposals coming from government departments. Therefore our deliberations during this conference can cover the range of types of impact assessment, in different institutional contexts.

We start with reflections on the journey so far, before moving on to critiques of current practice and suggestions for new thinking in certain areas. The importance of participatory approaches in contemporary impact assessment is reflected in the third session, while the last session looks at future possibilities in the scope and practice of impact assessment as a tool, to set a platform for the final discussion about possible ways forward.

The programme is designed to inform, but especially to stimulate discussion, and we see all conference participants as having valuable experiences or pertinent observations to share with others. Therefore we try to ensure there is plenty of time for discussion in each session.

On behalf of the organising group, welcome to this year’s conference: we hope you will find it relevant, stimulating, and enjoyable. We try to keep the atmosphere informal and relaxed, as that promotes greater participation by all the participants, so do feel free to get involved and make your contribution!

Prof. Richard Morgan, Chair NZAIA

Seminar Schedule

Thursday 3 December		
8.30 am	<i>Registration opens</i>	
9.00 am	<i>Seminar welcome and opening</i>	Richard Morgan
9.15 am	<i>IA in New Zealand: reflections on where we are</i>	
	An emerging community of practice in New Zealand – lessons for future practice	Nick Taylor
	Evolution of impact assessment in New Zealand, post-RMA	Richard Morgan
	<i>Discussion</i>	
10.15 am	<i>Break</i>	
10.45 am	<i>Critiques of current practice: priorities for improvement</i>	
	How has IA performed under the RMA – Policies, Plans and Projects?	Peter Skelton
	Front-ending biodiversity: what SEA could deliver for NZ nature	Marie Brown
	Sustainability Appraisal – a foundation for Integrated Assessment practice in Canterbury	Martin Ward and Jane Murray
	<i>Discussion</i>	
12.15 pm	<i>Lunch and POSTER SESSION</i>	
1.15 pm	<i>Opening the doors: innovations in participatory practice</i>	
	Participatory innovations to social assessment for accountable and adaptive decision making	Gillian Stewart
	Innovative methods for participation of indigenous communities	Michelle Thompson Fawcett
	Tools and technology to support community based environmental monitoring and IA (Did I mention free?)	Duane Wilkins
	<i>Discussion</i>	
2.45 pm	<i>Break</i>	
3.10 pm	<i>Signposts for the future: IA in policy, regulation and practice over the next ten years</i>	
	Impact assessment in an era of extinction – making ecological assessment fit for purpose	Judith Roper-Lindsay
	Impact assessment in an era of climate change and management of natural hazards	Hamish Rennie
	Impact assessment in an era of social-cultural diversity and community-led development	Mary-Jane Rivers
	<i>Discussion</i>	
4.30pm	<i>Discussion and summary: Setting an agenda for advancing practice in NZ</i>	<i>Facilitator:</i> Di Buchan
5.00 pm	NZAIA AGM <i>All welcome</i>	
6.30 pm	Drinks and Seminar Dinner	

SESSION 1

IA in New Zealand: reflections on where we are

NZAIA 2015 Seminar

Thursday 3 December

An emerging community of practice in New Zealand – lessons for future practice

Nick Taylor

Evolution of impact assessment in New Zealand, post-RMA

Richard Morgan

Discussion

Nick Taylor

Director, Taylor Baines and Associates

Nick Taylor is a founding Director in Taylor Baines & Associates. With a PhD from the University of Canterbury he has been involved since the early 1980s in development of approaches and techniques for social assessment and undertaken a wide variety of assessments for the public and private sector. He is active in social assessment networks and training including the New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment and the International Association for Impact Assessment, of which he was President 2009-10.



Richard Morgan

Professor, University of Otago

Richard is a professor of Geography at the University of Otago and has been active in impact assessment research, teaching and training since 1981. In 2003-4 Richard served as President of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and is current convenor of NZAIA.



Session 1:

IA in New Zealand: reflections on where we are

Session Notes:

Critiques of current practice: priorities for improvement

NZAIA 2015 Seminar

Thursday 3 December

How has IA performed under the RMA – Policies, Plans and Projects?	Peter Skelton
Front-ending biodiversity: what SEA could deliver for NZ nature	Marie Brown
Sustainability Appraisal – a foundation for Integrated Assessment practice in Canterbury	Martin Ward and Jane Murray
<i>Discussion</i>	

Peter Skelton

Environment Canterbury Commissioner

Peter Skelton is a former Environment Court Judge. He is currently an Environment Canterbury Commissioner with portfolio responsibilities for all planning and resource management processes. He was a member of the Technical Advisory Group appointed by the Government in 2011 to review sections 6 and 7 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and to advise on improved legislative provisions for natural hazard planning. From 2000 to 2005 he was the Associate Professor of Resource Management Law at Lincoln University and on retirement from that position he was appointed an Honorary Professor. He was the first Chair of the Environmental Legal Assistance Advisory Panel and is an Honorary Life Member of the Resource Management Law Association; and the New Zealand Legal Research Foundation. He is an Honorary Fellow of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand. In the 2001 New Years' Honours List he was appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to Environmental Law.



Marie Brown

Senior Policy Analyst, Environmental Defence Society

Marie is a Senior Policy Analyst for EDS, specialising in biodiversity policy. She holds degrees in science and environmental law and a PhD from the University of Waikato that focussed on the use of ecological compensation under the RMA. Marie has worked in the fields of RMA compliance monitoring and natural environment policy and has a keen interest in effective environmental governance. Marie is the lead author of EDS's recent book, *Vanishing Nature: facing New Zealand's biodiversity crisis*. Marie's present work focusses on managing the impacts of development on biodiversity, investigating innovative strategies and tools to improve outcomes for nature.



Martin Ward

Independent consultant

Martin Ward has been involved with aspects of impact assessment since he joined New Zealand's first environmental agency, the Commission for the Environment in 1974. He has researched and published on methodological and practice aspects of SEA, HIA and Sustainability Appraisal. He is semi-retired and, based in Christchurch, formally and informally supports practice in HIA and emerging applications of Integrated Assessment for post-earthquake recovery planning.



Jane Murray

Advisor, Canterbury District Health Board

Jane is a Health in All Policies Advisor for the Canterbury District Health Board and her work in HiAP focuses on ensuring long term strategies and Canterbury rebuild development have a positive impact on the health and wellness. She has a Post-graduate Diploma in Resource and Environmental Planning and has worked in the health sector for six years.



Session 2:

Critiques of current practice: priorities for improvement

Session Notes:

LUNCHTIME

Poster session

NZAIA 2015 Seminar

Thursday 3 December

Assessing research impact: a model for Otago Polytechnic

Lesley Brook

Integrating climate change and biodiversity into impact assessment

Emily Waterson

The impact of scoping on the quality of AEEs: case studies from New Zealand

Paige Searing

Impact assessment, uncertainty and decision-making: the New Zealand context

Jessica Gerry

Digital technology and impact assessment in New Zealand

**Richard Morgan and
Sophie Stuart**

Social change and key 'impact events' in a New Zealand hydro-construction village

**Mike Mackay, Jude
Wilson and Nick
Taylor**

NZAIA Affiliates poster

Richard Morgan

Poster session notes:

SESSION 3

Opening the doors: innovations in participatory practice

NZAIA 2015 Seminar

Thursday 3 December

Participatory innovations to social assessment for accountable and adaptive decision making

Gillian Stewart

Innovative methods for participation of indigenous communities

Michelle Thompson Fawcett

Tools and technology to support community based environmental monitoring and IA (Did I mention free?)

Duane Wilkins

Discussion

Gillian Stewart

Director, Co-Creationz Ltd

Gillian is a social impact practitioner, with a PhD in international development, and 10 years' experience in NZ local government. She has a special interest in impact measurement and evaluation using participatory and story-telling approaches to assess, manage and communicate impact and change. She is a founding Director of Co-Creationz Ltd, a value-based social change consultancy in Auckland.



Michelle Thompson Fawcett (Ngāti Whātua)

Associate Professor, University of Otago

Michelle is an Associate Professor at the University of Otago, with research and teaching interests in sustainable urban design, participatory approaches to planning, and iwi resource management. She was a member of the Mining and Maori Research Team at the University of Otago which published a book, "Maori and Mining", in 2013.



Duane Wilkins

National Lead GeoSpatial Information, Department of Conservation.

For the past four years Duane has been the National Mapping Lead at DOC. As part of this role, he has worked with many Maori communities on conservation projects, and provides the Maori GIS Association with technical support. Duane is a member of the Google Earth Outreach trainer network, and a keen follower of technology. He has worked in Iraq and Afghanistan implementing mapping systems to support infrastructure and investment.

Duane has three degrees in geography from the University of Waikato, and is a certified project manager.



Session 3:

Opening the doors: innovations in participatory practice.

Session Notes:

Signposts for the future: IA in policy, regulation and practice over the next ten years

NZAIA 2015 Seminar

Thursday 3 December

Impact assessment in an era of extinction – making ecological assessment fit for purpose **Judith Roper-Lindsay**

Impact assessment in an era of climate change and management of natural hazards **Hamish Rennie**

Impact assessment in an era of social-cultural diversity and community-led development **Mary-Jane Rivers**

Discussion

Judith Roper-Lindsay

Consultant

Judith is a self-employed consultant ecologist, based in North Canterbury. Her experience spans the range of project development from early scoping and planning, including consenting and hearings, through site investigations, project refinement and consultation to the practical aspects at implementation, construction and ecological mitigation work. She has worked on terrestrial and aquatic ecology and biodiversity assessments related to both large and small-scale developments. Judith is a past President of EIANZ New Zealand Chapter. Recently she was editor and lead author of “Ecological Impact Assessment”. These guidelines for use in New Zealand were produced by EIANZ, and won the RMLA’s 2015 “Documentation” Award.



Hamish Rennie

Associate Professor, Lincoln University

Hamish is an Associate Professor and Director of Planning Programmes at Lincoln University, with a PhD from the University of Waikato. He has formerly held management, policy analyst or scientist positions within the New Zealand central government’s Department of Conservation, Department of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Works and Development, and as a senior lecturer at the University of Waikato. He is a certified Practising Resource Manager (NZARM), member of the NZPI, and a certified RMA Hearings Commissioner and has sat on a number of RMA hearings. He is also a core member of NZAIA, a member of the IGU’s Commission on Applied Geography and the NZ Government’s National Science Challenge 10: “Resilience to Nature’s Challenges” research teams.



Mary-Jane Rivers

Consultant, Delta Networks

Mary-Jane specialises in local and international community and organisational development. Her deep interest in resilient communities started with her work in local government. She helped establish NZ's Social Impact Assessment Working Group - which later became an association and then part of NZAIA - , while in her role as Director of Social Policy in the Ministry of Works and Development.

Mary-Jane helped establish the Ministry for Women in NZ and was Director of Policy. She has been CEO of Citizens Advice NZ, as well as co-founder of NZ's Inspiring Communities. Mary-Jane runs her own consultancy, Delta Networks. She is on the boards of four social development organisations, including as Regional Director – Oceania for the International Association of Community Development.



Session 4:

Signposts for the future: IA in policy, regulation and practice over the next ten years

Session Notes:

Discussion and summary: setting an agenda for advancing practice in New Zealand

NZAIA 2015 Seminar

Thursday 3 December

Facilitating: Di Buchan

Manager, Corydon Consultants

Di is the Vice President (NZ) of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand and is a Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) with Impact Assessment Specialist accreditation.

As an independent researcher for 25 years specialising in social impact assessment and community consultation, she has worked on a wide range of projects from major infrastructure projects to community-based environmental initiatives. Over that time she has been responsible for managing a variety of multidisciplinary teams working on projects throughout New Zealand and the Pacific.

In a private capacity, Di has established an Environmental Trust (www.dbetrust.org) which works with landowners to develop new, less damaging land-use practices and with students from poorly resourced communities who might otherwise struggle to access the funding, knowledge and networks, to undertake projects aimed at environmental restoration.



Session 5:

Discussion and summary: setting an agenda for advancing practice in New Zealand

Session Notes:

Thank you for your participation in the NZAIA 2015 Seminar:

We would be most grateful if you could take a moment to complete our brief feedback sheet enclosed in the conference pack.

Please visit our website www.nzaia.org.nz for conference proceedings and on-going discussion forums.