



# New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment

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## A little history

The New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment was first formed as the Association for Social Assessment (Inc.) (ASA) in mid 1990. In 1998, ASA revised its constitution and changed its name to the New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment, reflecting a decision to widen the scope of the Association from primarily social considerations to a concern with all forms of impact assessment. This change coincided with the IAIA'98 meeting in Christchurch, New Zealand. Our current membership varies year by year, but with about 80-100 longer term members. The Association's activities are managed by a Core Group of 6-10 people, mainly through Skype conferencing every 4-6 weeks.



## Our aims

1. To promote the practice of impact assessment (including social and environmental assessment) in the formulation and implementation of development and policy proposals.
2. To promote research and consultation practices which identify the full social and environmental effects of policies & projects and the measures required to address these.
3. To promote the development of impact assessment theory and methods.
4. To promote impact assessment that recognises and accommodates different social and cultural values, including those of indigenous peoples.
5. To promote and encourage a high standard of practice amongst members of the Association and others using impact assessment methods, in accordance with the Code of Ethics.
6. To recognise and consider the Treaty of Waitangi.
7. To undertake or encourage initiatives, consistent with the other objects, powers and resources of the Association, to promote or advance the protection of the environment.



## 2015 Conference

### *Impact assessment in New Zealand: charting a course for the future*

The 2015 conference was a little different from our usual event. To mark the passing earlier in the year of our long time Secretary/Treasurer, Jamie Newell, we decided to hold a one-day meeting in Wellington, where Jamie lived, and to use it to take stock of impact assessment in New Zealand after about 40 years of active use. In particular we wanted to get people thinking about the future of impact assessment and what NZAIA's role might be in supporting that future.

As ever, we devised a programme of invited speakers, to address topics ranging from the more historic perspectives, to reflecting on aspects of current practice, through to innovation in public participation and, finally, emerging issues and trends in IA practice in New Zealand.

The meeting attracted about 55 attendees from a wide variety of backgrounds, including a good number of students which is a healthy sign for the future of NZAIA. The presentations were uploaded to our website shortly after the conference where they are available to non-members. It was a very stimulating meeting, with good speakers and plenty of discussion. We feel we did Jamie proud, but now we are getting on making changes to NZAIA as an organisation to make it more fit for purpose, to meet the challenges of future IA.

## NZAIA management

NZAIA is going through a period of change with respect to its operations, and its management. We are raising our profile within New Zealand by being more active in making submissions on relevant proposed legislation, and on draft impact assessment guides. We are continuing to upgrade our website and provide more information to members and casual visitors, and we are improving our management systems, with better use of online IT resources.

For example, we now use Google Docs to manage conference organisation. In particular we use an Excel spreadsheet to set up and manage the budget, to manage registrations, to co-ordinate speaker information and who will be contacting which speaker, etc. We are using Mailchimp to send information to members, but we also maintain a second, larger list to which we send updates, conference notices, etc. We are about to launch the new look newsletter, which will contain short pieces on a variety of topics with links to the full article on our website.

The NZAIA website uses Weebly, the free web hosting facility, which allows easy development of the site without specialist HTML skills. In fact, we have been able to reduce our costs for website management, email services, and IT services to almost nil by taking advantage of available free tools on the internet. We can then channel our limited funds into activities that serve our core purpose: supporting impact assessment in New Zealand and the Pacific.

### Recent conference themes:

*Assessing the impacts of energy development: regional and local perspectives* (2006)

*Assessing the impacts of growth on our urban areas* (2007)

*Assessing impacts in coastal and lake front environments* (2008)

*Changing landscapes: impacts of regional economic development* (2009)

[2010: NZAIA supported the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Pacific regional HIA Conference]

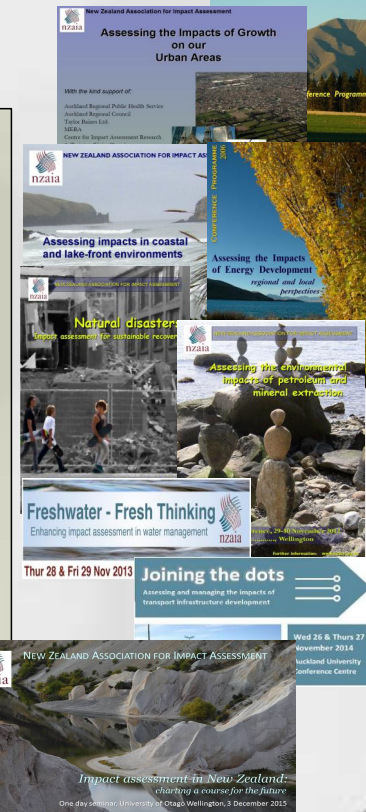
*Natural disasters: impact assessment for sustainable recovery* (2011)

*Assessing the impacts of petroleum and mineral extraction in New Zealand* (2012)

*Freshwater, fresh thinking: the role of impact assessment in freshwater management* (2013)

*Joining the dots - assessing and managing the impacts of transport infrastructure development* (2014)

*Impact assessment in New Zealand: charting a course for the future* (2015)



## NZAIA submissions

Submissions and comments over the last 12 months include:

Appearing before the Select Committee on the Resource Management Legislation Bill (April 2016)

Feedback to EIANZ on: *Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA). EIANZ guidelines for use in New Zealand: terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems* (April 2016)

Submission to NZ Transport Agency on their draft *Guide to Assessing Social Impact for State Highway Projects*. (Feb 2016)

Submission to Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority on the *Transitional Recovery Plan*. (July 2015)