

NZAIA 2021 Practice session

Strategic Applications of SIA

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BUILDING BETTER
HOMES, TOWNS
AND CITIES

Ko Ngā wā Kainga hei
whakamāhorahora

National
Science
Challenges

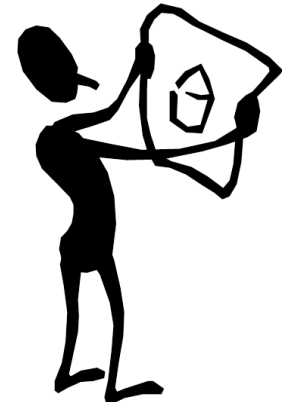
agresearch
āta mātai, mātai whetū

Guide to the Session

- The work we are drawing on
- What is SIA and what makes it strategic?
- Two examples of strategic applications
- Practice issues in strategic applications
 - The SIA process
 - Scoping an integrated assessment
 - Establishing the “baseline” (status quo)
 - Longitudinal analysis for the baseline
 - Effects with and without the policy or plan
 - Public involvement
 - Managing change

What does SIA do?

SIA contributes to decision making and the management of social change. The process provides information to decision makers and affected people as they balance economic, social and environmental needs of people and communities, and promote sustainable development.



Definition of SIA

SIA helps to identify predict, monitor, mitigate and manage impacts on the social environment arising from new projects, programmes policies and plans. The process of SIA uses

- Public involvement and consultation
- Data gathering and analysis
- Projections of social futures
- Mitigation and management of impacts and social change
- Community development - collective actions by community members to solve problems

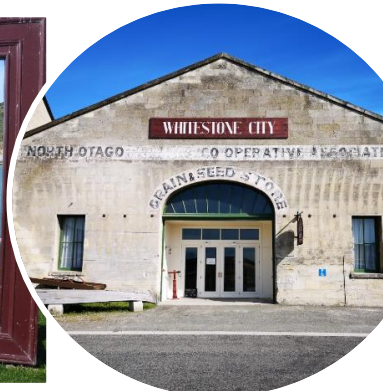
Example 1 - the Waitaki, a case study of regeneration in the regions

- The Waitaki/Oamaru case study of BBHTC
- Considers regeneration as a combination of physical, economic, social, heritage and cultural development
- Provides a longitudinal analysis of policies, plans, programmes and projects for regeneration – efforts to make the area a better place in which to live, work and invest



Essential elements from Waitaki

- Develop an integrated, strategic approach that includes a mix of planning instruments - tourism strategies, a housing strategy, irrigation development, and local and regional plans
- A strong underpinning of community input and a mix of local leaders, organisations and stakeholders
- The need to build local capacity in regeneration through multiple leaders and organisations



Key lessons from the Waitaki

- The approach utilises the combined approaches of **evaluation and assessment**. An evaluation component will apply to most policies, plans and programmes
- Involves working *with* the community to **co-generate knowledge** - the ability to mobilise local and also external resources across sites, projects and organisations
- Involves a longitudinal perspective – change processes documented since the district experienced marked economic decline and population loss in the 1980s followed by a period of increasing multi-functionality

Example 2 - strategic SIAs of land and water plans

- A 2020 review of 6 SIAs completed by us for MfE as part of their regulatory impact assessment (RIA) of the proposed National Policy Statement on Freshwater Management
- The SIAs were conducted for ECAN and GWC
- Plus our general experiences working on strategic SIAs for land and water, and SIAs in general in rural communities



Essential elements from land and water plan SIAs

- Develop an integrated assessment approach
- A strong underpinning of community input
- The need to build local capacity through zone (catchment)/whaitua committees
- Cultural assessment alongside SIA
- Scenarios of planning options
- A baseline to status quo and other scenarios
- Project management with an integrative ethos

Other lessons from the land and water work

- Integration and timing of assessments is a problem because chains of effects lead to chains of analysis

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/117963750/where-we-used-to-swim-the-turning-point-for-canterburys-selwyn-river>

Other lessons from the land and water work

- Engagement activities around new policies and plans are a key source of information
- Lived experiences and stories are important to understanding the results from quantitative modelling
- It is difficult to define the baseline for multiple change processes



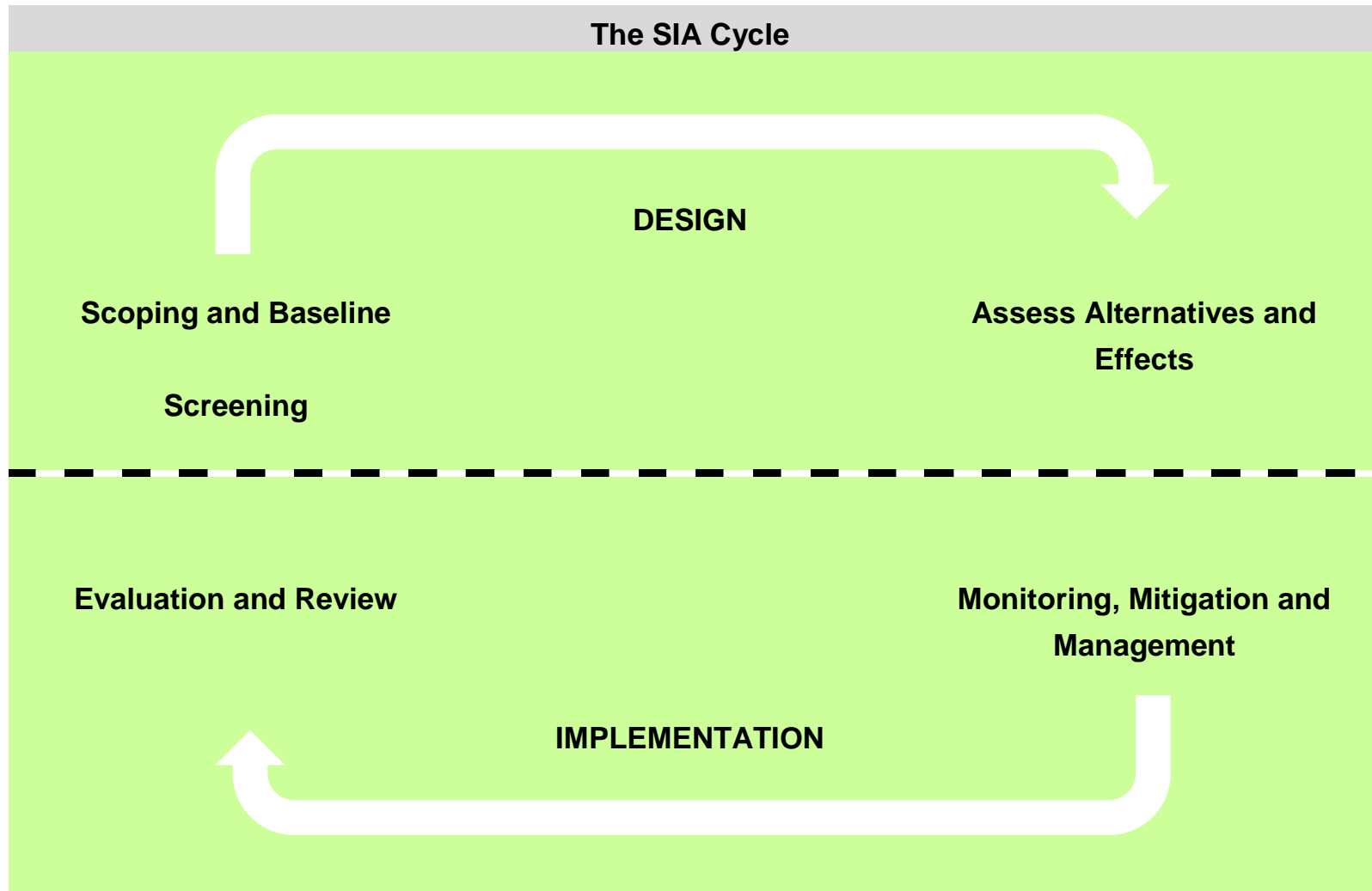
The basis for strategic assessment

- There is provision in the RMA for assessing the social effects of policies and plans
- It is an integrated policy and plan making framework for the sustainable management of natural and physical resources, by central government and territorial authorities
- The broad framework of the RMA, and the section 32 evaluation requirements, provide possibilities for improved use of strategic SIA

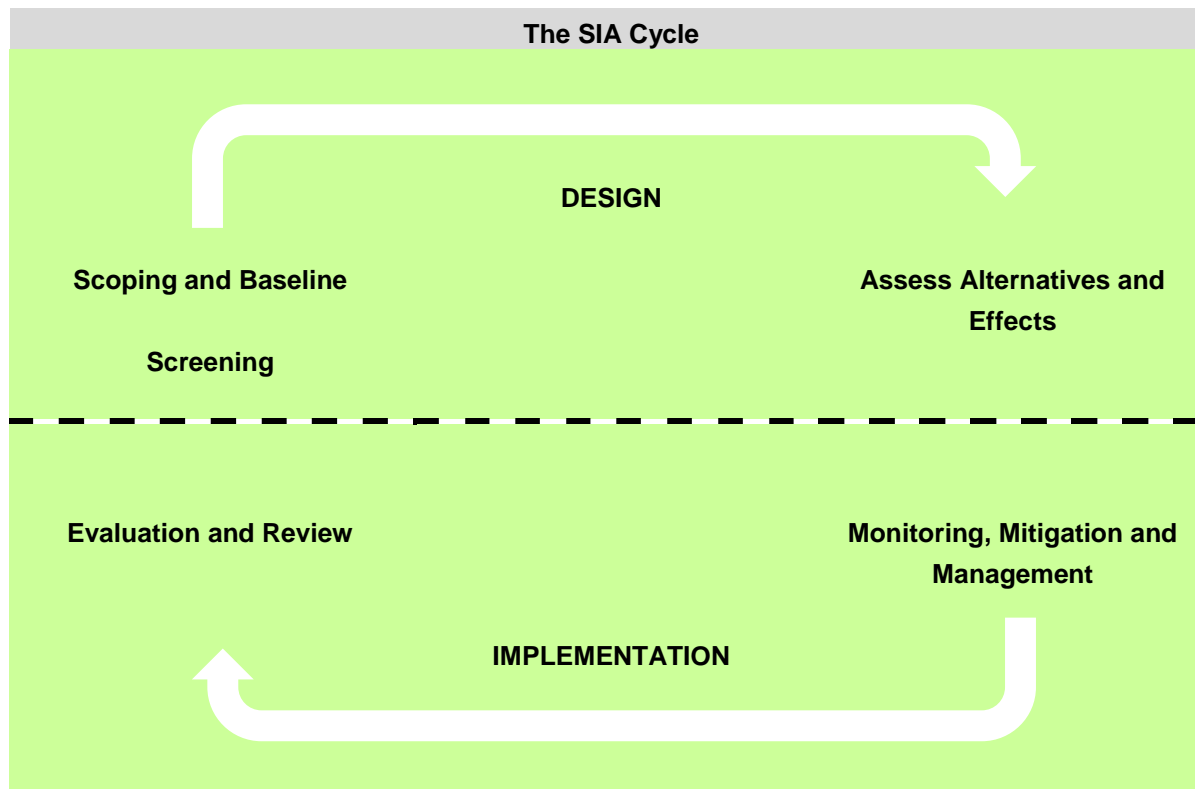
How does strategic SIA differ from project SIA? Examples ???



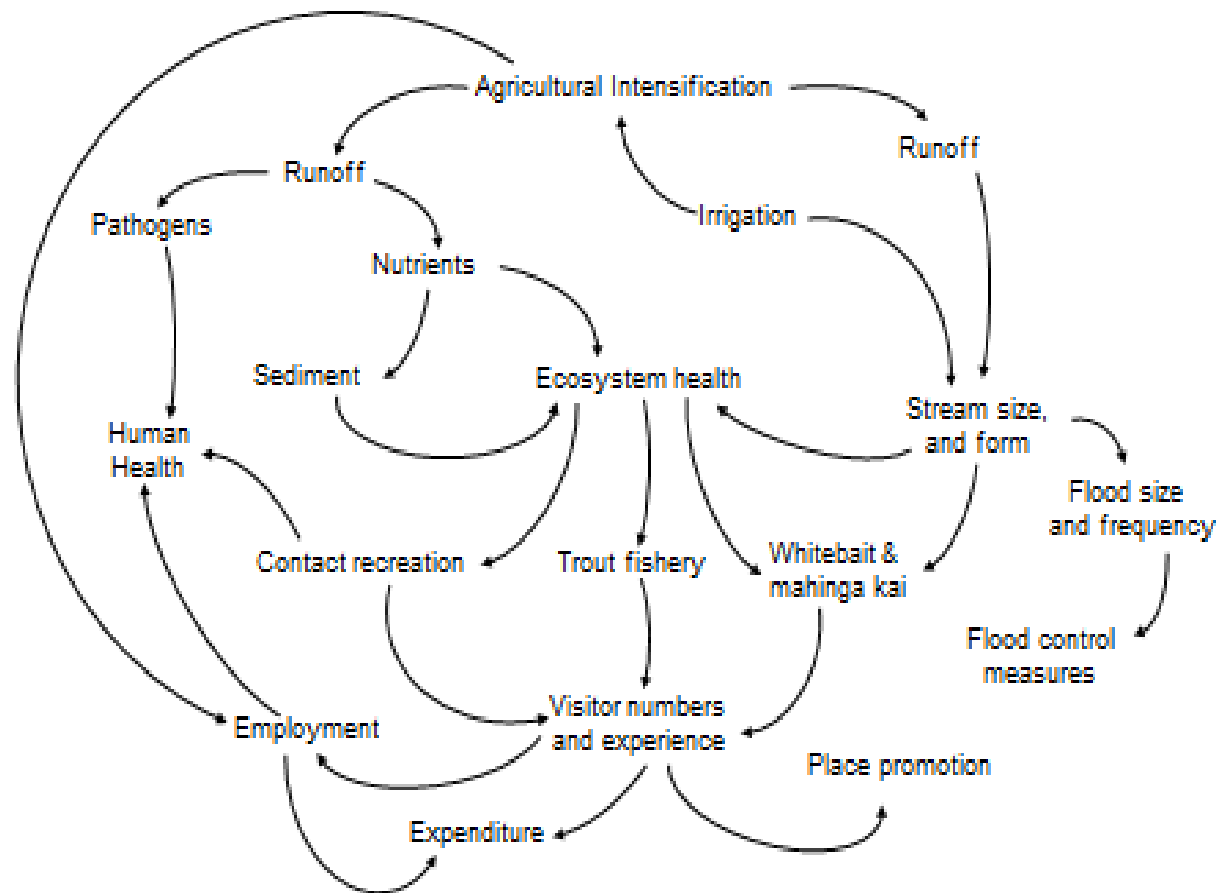
The SIA Process as a Cycle



Practice Issues – SIA Process



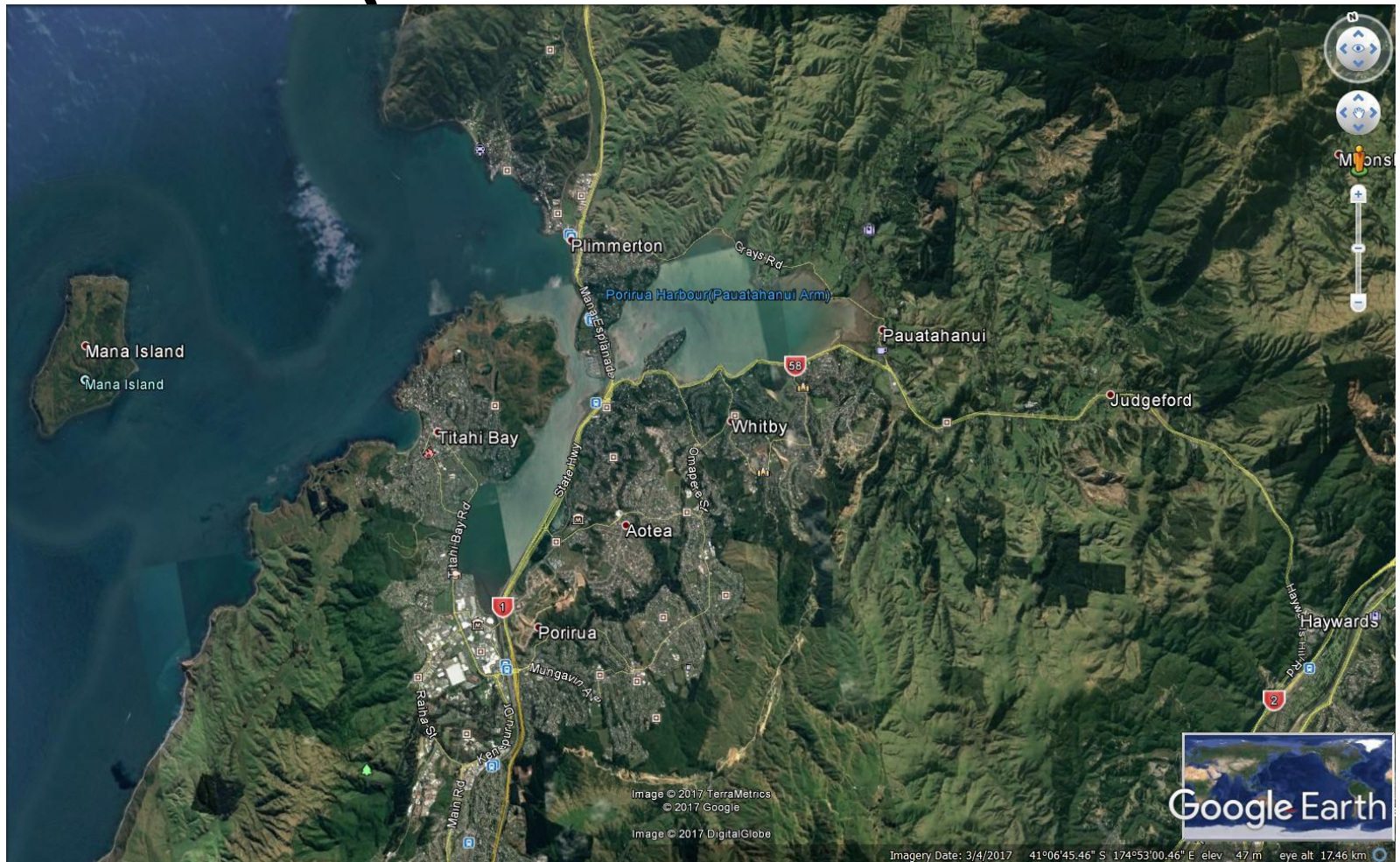
Scoping – Understanding Chains of Effects



Practice Issues – Scoping the Key Issues



(eg, Porirua harbour)



Typical elements of the baseline

- Description of the population and demography (e.g., age structure, ethnicity, length of residence)
- Description of the local and regional economy, sources of livelihoods and potential economic links, for example between primary production, transport and processing.
- Description of landscape, heritage and amenity values which form part of local lifestyles (such as outdoor recreation like hunting, fishing or boating) and attract new residents and visitors.
- Description of community organisations, leadership, volunteering, and social capital.

Typical elements of the baseline

Cont'd

- Analysis of significant social, cultural and environmental values and the presence of Māori values - may be associated with a particular resource such as a waterway, landscape, heritage feature or natural area
- Maps depicting areas of influence of public agencies such as local authorities, planning zones, land uses, or tribal boundaries
- Documentation of data sources, definitions or interpretations of key variables and a discussion of assumptions underlying their analysis-
 - with discussion of the reliability of data, and any biases, inconsistencies or gaps in the data that might affect the analysis

Practice Issues –Baseline analysis



Consider long-term change processes such as climate change, and cumulative environmental effects, which often result in effects on social outcomes and community wellbeing



The Nature of Effects

Types of Effects	Qualities of Effects	Attributes of Effects
Physical	Quantitative	Short Term
Ecological	Qualitative	Long Term
Social	Actual	Reversible
Economic	Predicated	Irreversible
Health	High Probability	One-off
	Low Probability	Cumulative
	Direct	Adverse
	Indirect	Beneficial
		Widespread
		Localised

Practice Issues - Effects



The Spectrum of Public Involvement

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
<p>Provide the public with comprehensive information about alternatives and a final proposal and its social implications.</p> <p>Full disclosure of all relevant technical information</p>	<p>Seek input from interested and affected people about alternatives, a proposal and the likely social effects.</p> <p>Listen to and acknowledge informal input and formal input from the public, such as through submissions</p>	<p>Working with affected people and communities jointly to assess effects (incorporating local knowledge) and proposals for mitigation and the management of social change</p>	<p>Working jointly with and resourcing people and communities to develop a proposal from the start, working through alternatives and shaping the final advice to decision makers</p>	<p>Placing decision making in the hands of affected people throughout a process of change, including ensuring there are sufficient capacity and resources to undertake this work from a community base</p>
<p>Newsletters, website, public meeting</p>	<p>Submissions Stakeholder meetings</p>	<p>Workshops, working groups, Local capacity building</p>	<p>Collaborative planning processes, openly sharing local and technical knowledge</p>	<p>Committees with delegated powers Funding for local and community research and citizen science</p>

Practice Issues - Participation

Engagement with affected people is essential in the development of policies and plans, often assisted by a collaborative approach



Mitigation and Management of Change

New policies and plans contribute to complex change processes that can affect social outcomes and community wellbeing

Adaptive management is facilitated through phasing of change, good information (monitoring) and involvement of affected people and organisations

Practice Issues - Mitigation and Management of Change



“North Otago's largest town, Oamaru, is fast becoming the most Polynesian town in New Zealand” (One News)



References

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