

EIANZ's SEA WORKING GROUP = So What?

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Recommendations for SEA

- ▶ Expand the role of strategic assessments and bioregional plans so that they are used more often
- ▶ Strengthen the process for creating these plans and undertaking these assessments, so they are more substantial and robust
- ▶ For 'bioregional plans'
 - ▶ change the terminology from 'bioregional plans' to 'regional plans'
 - ▶ allow the Commonwealth to unilaterally develop regional plans on appropriate 'landscape scales'
 - ▶ ensure that the process for delineating a region for the purpose of the Act is flexible

Recommendations contd

- ▶ for strategic assessments
 - ▶ specify mandatory required information for strategic assessments
 - ▶ insert an 'improve or maintain' test for the approval of a class of actions in accordance with an endorsed plan, policy or program
 - ▶ enhance provision for public engagement
 - ▶ create a 'call in' power for plans, policies and programs likely to have a significant impact on matters of National Environmental Significance and amending the term 'action' to incorporate these plans, policies or programs
 - ▶ Enable minor variations to a PPP without consultation (after determination of amendments to assessed impact) and major variations - with public consultation

SEA Working Group:

- ▶ EIANZ 2017 Conference Roundtable
- ▶ 2 Day seminar in 2018 on Strategic Approaches to Impact Assessment
- ▶ Drafting of Good Practice Guidance for SEA in Australia
- ▶ EIANZ 2018 Conference Panel Session on: Imagine A national environment Act focused on landscape scale approaches
- ▶ IAIA19 Lessons Learned from SEA in Australia
- ▶ Post IAIA19 Conference Workshop with international experts to explore how to increase uptake and effectiveness of SEA in Australia

Insights from EIANZ 2018 Panel Session:

- ▶ SEA has a lot of potential to help us address current national and landscape scale environmental issues
 - ▶ application in strategic and statutory planning at a landscape scale
 - ▶ could be a compulsory component of [state's] regional and local planning
 - ▶ existing SEA processes in legislation could be used more than they are currently to address impacts at a landscape scale
- ▶ There are clear benefits from undertaking SEA: