



# A Framework for Exploring Effectiveness

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- IA and decision-making in the spotlight



- A framework for exploring effectiveness





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- Does the requirement to undertake environmental assessment have any effect on the process of developing and implementing projects, or policies, programs, and plans?



# Effects through procedural compliance

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- Strong procedural focus
- Procedural steps provoke actions and responses from proponents
- Procedural steps impose structure and focus



# Knowledge generated from predictions

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- Predicting consequences is central to EA
- EA has borrowed from and contributed to a range of predictive tools and methods
- Prediction of significant impacts may provoke a response

# Effects through proposal design

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- Design changes associated with:
  - Alternatives analysis
  - EA findings
  - Stakeholder input
  - Negotiations with regulatory authority
- Pre-screening effect?



# Debate and Discourse

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- EA promotes interactions between stakeholders
- Outside EA, limited opportunities to discuss development and environment issues
- Interactions may be adversarial or conciliatory





# Response of statutory decision-maker to information generated

- Mis-match between technical-rational model of EA and real-life decision making
- Many influences on decision-makers
  - Must consider EA reports and outputs of consultation
- Response can include:
  - Further information, modifications
  - Approve/refuse
  - Approve with conditions





# Transformations from organisational learning

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- Organisations may learn from carrying out EA
  - Internal policies, standards, processes
  - Positive and negative experiences
  - Positive and negative responses

# Why is this framework useful?

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- Highlights the places where we should look for effect
- Brings focus to the “causal mechanisms” underlying observed effects