

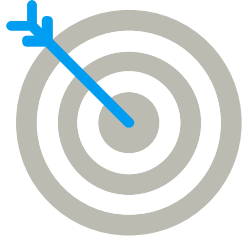
EFFECTIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCOPING FOR EFFICIENT DELIVERY

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR IA PRACTITIONERS –AN AU PERSPECTIVE

IAIA2019 - IAIA 2019 ESIA Leadership: The Role of an ESIA Co-ordinator

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Scoping – what is it and why do it?
- The precautionary approach
- Challenges for change
- The role of the IA practitioner
- What as IA practitioners can we do about it?



SCOPING – EIANZ Definition

"Scoping is the process of identifying and prioritising the key issues associated with a project to be assessed in an impact assessment and the extent of work that needs to be undertaken to address those issues" (EIANZ)

THE BENEFITS OF SCOPING

- Confirmation of the issues to be addressed and focus of time and resources
- Defines the projects envelope
- Clear delineation of the boundaries for cumulative IA
- Promotes early consultation with stakeholders
- Builds trust
- Supports efficient decision making

"Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation" (UNEP)

THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

THE PRECAUTIONARY APPROACH

- Risk aversion
- Safe
- Results in:
 - Extensive and unnecessary information collection
 - Increased cost
 - Time delays
 - Complex impact assessments disproportionate to the effects of a development
 - Is a barrier to development



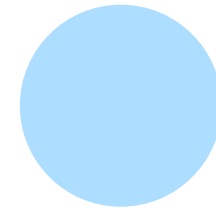


CHALLENGES FOR CHANGE

- Policy change is slow
- Perception of less rigorous assessment
- Baseline information for the receiving environment
- Detail of the proposed development
- Complex IA timeframes
- Policy

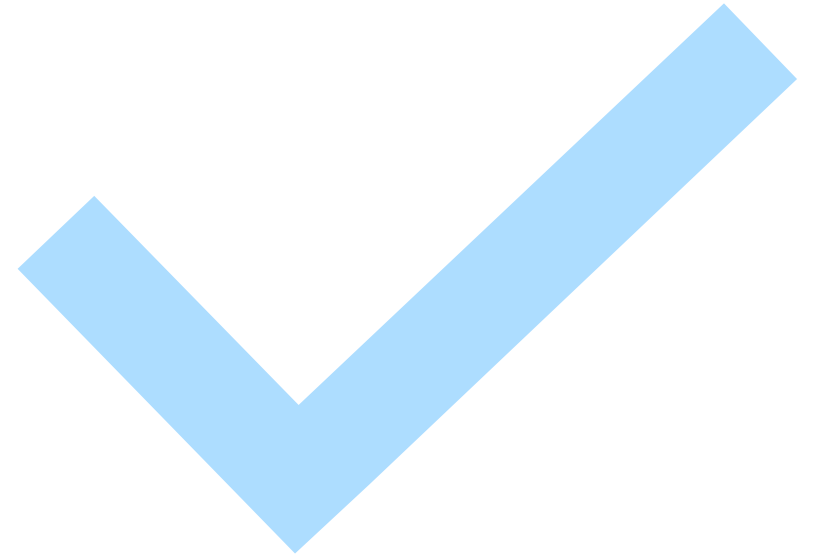
- Inform regulators
- Describe the receiving environment
- Interpret components of the proposed project
- Engage with stakeholders
- Effectively communicate
- Independent of political or commercial influences
- Promote environmental and social values

IA PRACTITIONER ROLE IN SCOPING



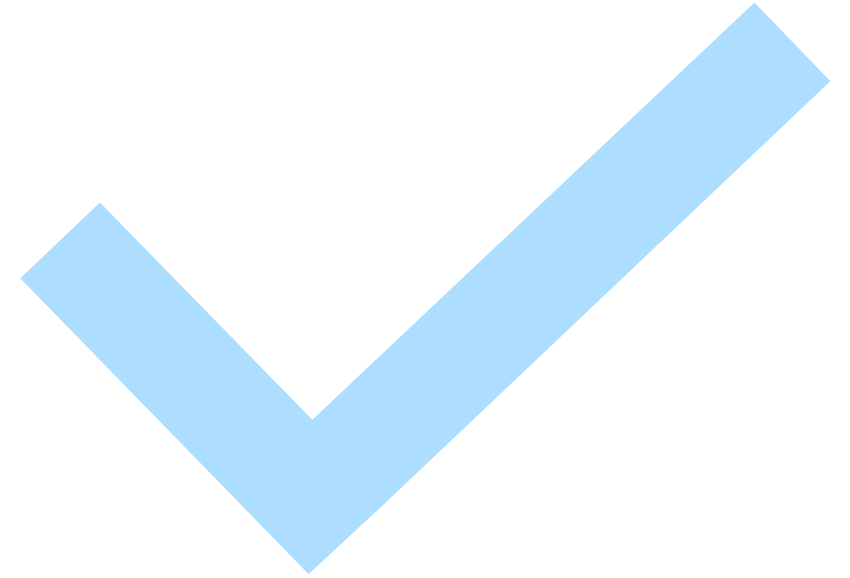
SO WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT?

- Hold proponents accountable
- Advise on acquiring adequate baseline information on the receiving community and environment
- Clearly communicate outcomes
- Understand and communicate the limitations of the outcomes



SO WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT IT?

- Promote education of receiving communities
- Lobby for project specific assessment requirements
- Lobby for the clear delineation of the Precautionary Principle and improved guidance notes on how it should be applied
- Maintain a high level of professional conduct



Bright ideas. Sustainable change.

