

2006

**Australian and New Zealand Environment and
Conservation Council**

**A NATIONAL APPROACH TO
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
IN AUSTRALIA**

BACKGROUND PAPER OF THE WORKING GROUP

OCTOBER 1991

**A SUPPLEMENT TO THE STATEMENT OF NATIONAL PRINCIPLES
AND PRACTICE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
IN AUSTRALIA.**

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1. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The National Approach and this Background Paper have been aided by two strong forces that have recently emerged within Australian society. One is a growing political commitment to the use of national approaches and methods where feasible; the other is an increasing commitment to the practical implementation of ecologically sustainable development.

Thus there is a recognition of the interdependence of our historically separate fiscal and environmental resource policies and programmes.

The spirit of intergovernmental cooperation augurs well for the increasing effectiveness of considering environmental factors at all points that influence the direction and development of the nation.

The Working Group recommends to the Australian New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, via Standing Committee that:

1. The statement of a national approach to EIA in Australia be fully endorsed by Council and implementation supported within governments.
2. The corporate sector be encouraged at every opportunity to support and practice the intent of the national approach.
3. Community awareness of and participation in the EIA process be encouraged and facilitated by both government and industry through provision of access, commitment to public involvement and full accountability.
4. Each Minister of ANZECC representing the governments in Australia agree to a progress report to Council in 12 months from adoption, on progress in achieving the intent of the national approach — emphasising the dynamic nature EIA and the need to evolve an increasingly effective and efficient process.
5. The EIA process be again reviewed within five years, under the auspices of the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council, to accommodate what is anticipated to be a new generation of priorities for environmental assessment. This will allow sufficient time to capitalise on the experience of the first set of national principles.
6. ANZECC establishes a Working Group comprising representatives of assessing authorities from the Commonwealth and States and Territories, to develop on a national basis, criteria for proposals which would normally attract the application of formal environmental impact assessment procedures.

2. INTRODUCTION

At its meeting of 22 March 1991, the Australian and New Zealand Environment and Conservation Council (ANZECC) established a Working Group to prepare a national approach to environmental impact assessment in Australia.

The main purpose of the national approach (and especially relevant to the timing) is to provide the basis of ANZECC's input into the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment: an initiative of the October 1990 Special Premier's Conference. The Intergovernmental Agreement will include ... "the development of a national approach to environmental impact assessment ... throughout Australia ..." The Agreement is due for consideration at the Special Premiers' Conferences scheduled for November 1991 and early 1992.

However apart from the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Environment there have been a number of recent reviews, comments and critiques of environmental impact assessment in Australia. The ANZECC national approach will also provide the basis for responding to these.

The Working Group, which comprised senior officers knowledgeable of and experienced in environmental impact assessment from the Commonwealth and State and Territory Governments, has prepared the national approach (as a separate document) for ANZECC's consideration. This Background Paper provides supporting information and the rationale behind various aspects of the national approach.

In addressing its Terms of Reference the Working Group has taken the approach that the result of implementation of the national approach should be a better process: one that is efficient but retains its effectiveness for protection and management of the environment. In particular the Working Group has attempted to identify where rights, responsibilities, opportunities and roles fall to the various players involved in the environmental impact assessment process. The Working Group was mindful that all participants make a considerable investment in the process in terms of time and resources and that it is reasonable for the process to provide a return to the broad community in terms of better environmental protection. It is the opinion of the Working Group that adoption of the national approach will increase the return for the nation.

This is the first national approach aimed at practical coordination of EIA in Australia, using common principles and practices, since the process was introduced in various forms nearly 20 years ago. As such it has consolidated both past experience and taken a forward-looking perspective to assist in national efforts to meet the challenges of maintaining and enhancing global, national and regional environmental values. Significantly this is occurring at a time when the demand has never been greater for Australia to act as a nation environmentally.

3. DISCUSSION OF THE NATIONAL APPROACH

3.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE NATIONAL APPROACH

There are many purposes served by introducing greater consistency into EIA through the adoption of national principles relating to the scope and general application of environmental assessment. The credibility of the entire process is enhanced through the clear statement of commitment which comprises agreement on a national approach.

EIA is a mechanism for achieving protection and management of the environment through the provision of informed advice to decision-makers. A common framework should increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the process by clarifying the purposes and objectives of environmental assessment in all jurisdictions. National directions provide the basis for ensuring that essential elements of the process are in place and given credence. All participants in the process gain by a greater understanding of what is expected from all concerned.

Benefits associated with the EIA process in a national context include integrated management of environmental assets plus advantages for the community in general, proponents of proposals and all levels of government. The continuing (sustained) viability of our environmental resource base is the overriding gain of effective EIA.

Factors relating to the community include:

- accessible information about development proposals
- opportunities to participate, offer opinions and advice; and to influence decision-making in a timely way especially regarding the distribution of broad costs and benefits within the community and the allocation and use of public environmental resources (air, soils, water, minerals, aesthetics etc)
- accountability by proponents and decision-makers for the environmental consequences of proposals and decisions
- a proven mechanism to help achieve community objectives for ecologically sustainable development
- visible means of protecting the environment.

Proponents gain value through:

- clarification and analysis of proposal objectives and alternatives for meeting goals
- integrated project planning (technical, financial and environmental)
- potential savings of input costs arising from site selection analysis; effective controls/reductions of waste and emissions
- orderly process for hearing and responding to public concerns
- opportunities to gain credibility and support on environmental aspects of proposals.

Advantages for Governments include:

- environmentally responsible development
- a tool for achieving Government policy
- opportunities for community participation in proposals before decisions have to be taken
- opportunities for reducing conflict and solving problems on environmental issues
- a tool for achieving community-wide environmental objectives
- orderly process for the provision of sound information and advice before decision-making
- better (but not necessarily easier) decision-making.

Clearly, defining a national direction provides the opportunity to identify the connection between EIA and ecologically sustainable development. This important link has been outlined in the national approach. It is sufficient herein to underscore the key role of EIA, among other mechanisms, in the implementation of the practicalities of ecologically sustainable development.

3.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE EIA PROCESS

EIA in Australia has evolved over 20 years:

- from providing key advice for a decision perceived as a barrier to be crossed — to an ongoing process to assisting in better environmental protection and management of the environment
- from application by a central agency to a few high profile, large development projects — to a much wider range of proposals; and not always administered by a central agency
- from somewhat ad hoc public involvement — to clear public rights and opportunities being articulated
- from a process concentrating on impact predictability — to one being able to recognise and evaluate risk
- from offering environmental advice in a judgemental manner on proposals — to actively working with process participants to amend proposals to avoid, minimise, ameliorate and manage impacts and maximise environmental benefits
- from offering decision-makers static environmental advice — to actively working with decision-making processes to achieve environmental objectives.

However, in Australia, there has been inadequate systematic monitoring of the effectiveness of the environmental impact assessment process. Such monitoring is generally accepted as the best way to facilitate future improvements to the process and should be implemented as a priority.

With respect to the overall framework within which EIA fits, Figure 1 reflects the Working Group's interpretation of the relationship of EIA to ecologically sustainable development. In particular it presents a context for environmental factors to be fully incorporated into decision-making.

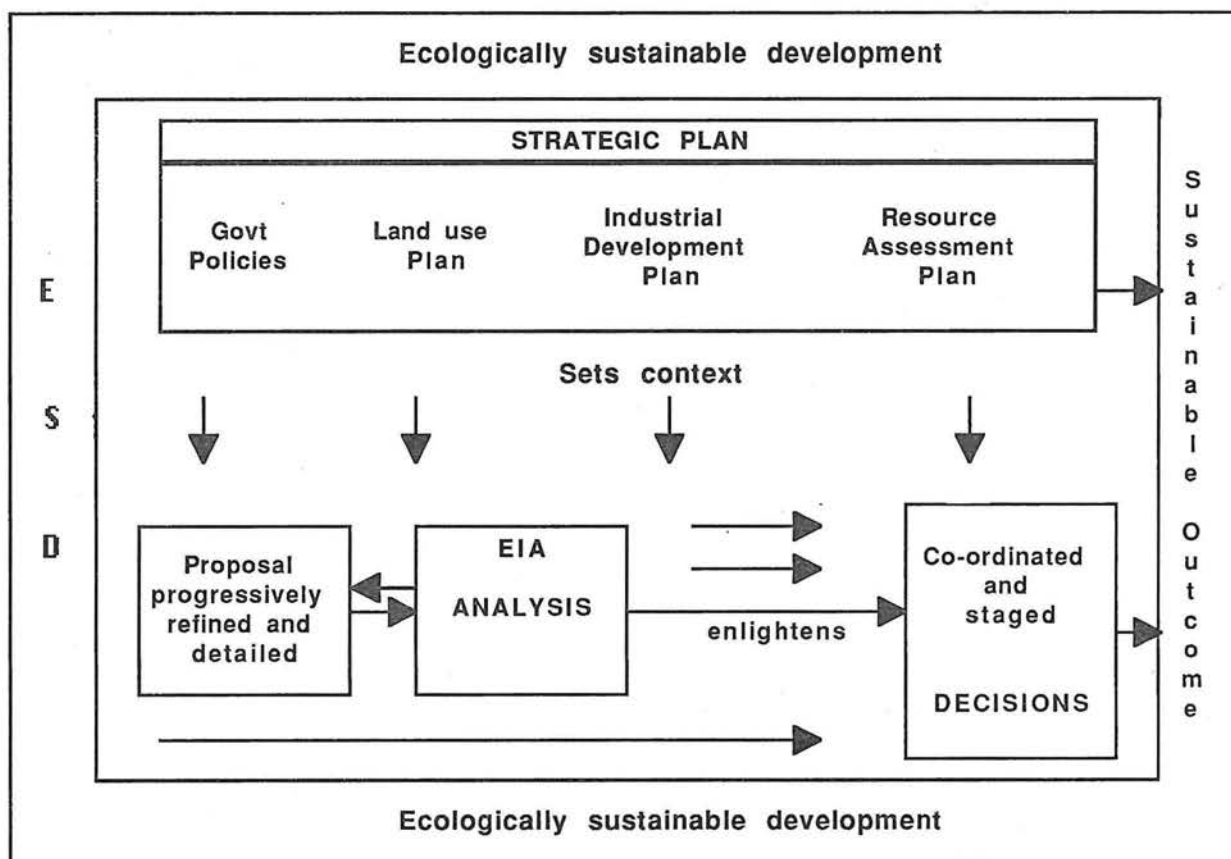


Figure 1. Setting the context for environmental impact assessment

3.3 SPECIFICS OF THE EIA PROCESS

TERMINOLOGY

The following terms are explained to increase understanding and appreciation for their usage within this documentation. In general, the interpretations are those commonly understood by professional practitioners in the EIA process.

Environment

As used in EIA, this term is inclusive of consideration of biological, physical, social, cultural and economic considerations. Therefore, the documentation, analysis and evaluation leading to environmental advice for decision-makers will generally incorporate these factors although their relevance and significance will vary considerably between proposals.

For example the assessment of an industrial project proposed to be located in a planned, managed, zoned and buffered industrial estate could be expected to be orientated around management of emissions whereas a large mining project in a remote site away from established social infrastructure could be expected to include a far wider range of factors in its environmental assessment. Health, aesthetics, risks and hazards, heritage and quality of life are all relevant components of environmental assessment.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

The process of EIA is one of evaluating a proposal, including: alternatives, objectives, potential environmental effects, and both the mitigation and management of likely impacts. Such analysis should also involve a proposed programme of monitoring for predicted impacts and an audit schedule for compliance with conditions attached to an approval of the proposal.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS or other name)

To date it has been common practice in Australia for the proponent to prepare (or have prepared) the required documentation for the EIA process which presents the proponent's case for assessment. Such documentation is normally called an environmental impact statement or similar name. The proponent preparing the case has been seen as appropriate for numerous reasons, including:

- the proponent has the fundamental responsibility of protecting the environment from adverse impacts of the proposal
- the proponent has in-depth appreciation for the intent and detail of their proposal
- environmental analysis by the proponent highlights need for integrated project planning — using multidisciplinary appraisal, considering direct and indirect factors, short and long term evaluation and total project life-cycle projection
- potential savings in time and cost — if research, analysis and documentation by the proponent (or consultant to the proponent) is adequate and acceptable in environmental terms
- by having the proponent immersed in the consideration of all the issues, and changes in the proposal needed to accommodate them, the proponent will have ownership and commitment to proceed with the proposal in its refined form.

The case (EIS) from the proponent is then assessed by the Government assessing authority responsible for the EIA process - a separate, independent evaluation.

Alteration is not recommended to the system of having the proponent accept responsibility for preparation of the EIS.

As a general observation, the better the quality of the case prepared by the proponent (in terms of accuracy, information predictions and management) the quicker and better the assessment. It is expected that consistent opportunities for public access and accountability in the overall process will greatly benefit the quality of EIS documentation.

Assessment Report

The government assessing authority responsible for the EIA process prepares an Assessment Report, as environmental advice to the relevant decision-makers. There are issues raised regarding both the 'independence' and 'adequacy' of this documentation. The first concern is one of a perceived alliance between a proponent and a government assessing authority — to the detriment of a genuinely separate evaluation. For the most part this is a misinterpretation of the real need to maintain regular contact with the proponent to maximise flow of information and add to the efficiency of government investigations.

Adequacy of assessment has been questioned in connection with the amount of resources made available for these purposes and also because of a lack of (in-house) expertise on the full range of matters explored in a major development proposal. In this instance it is usually standard practice to consult expertise found in other government agencies, academic institutions and through the employment of private consultants for particular further analysis.

TIME FRAMES

It is strongly recommended that time schedules should be discussed and agreed at the earliest point in the process. These timings should be related to the particular proposal and be set in consideration of the needs of all concerned. A part of the agreement should include ample notification in the event of inability to meet the time frame. Clearly, it would be necessary to re-schedule all parts of the assessment schedule in this case.

Efficiencies and cost-effectiveness through predictable work programming are beneficial for all concerned. It should also be noted that the final decision-making on a proposal (and associated

requests for timing commitments in giving approvals) is often confused with the earlier stage of environmental analysis and advice-giving.

The setting of time schedules must take into account:

- adequacy of information
- referring of information for expert advice
- difficulty of re-scheduling resources when time schedules are not met
- complexity of the proposal and its assessment
- analogies between assessing authority and proponent.

These apply to all parties.

4. NATIONAL ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) PROCESS

4.1 BACKGROUND

Primarily, it should be noted that the importance of the EIA process is acknowledged and intentionally confirmed in establishing a national commitment to the principles and practice of environmental assessment.

The environmental impact assessment process, in evaluating the potential effects associated with any proposal, whether it be a major development project, or a programme, plan or policy, is both a very productive and valuable source of advice to decision-makers plus an important tool of environmental analysis. It is by definition a highly visible process in providing access to and encouraging public involvement in issues concerning the use of community or common resources.

In recent times many aspects of the EIA process have been questioned, with calls for greater clarity and consistency in approach and questioning the environmental effectiveness of the outcomes of the process. Recent reviews and reports undertaken in both the private and public sectors are cited in the bibliography in Appendix A.

There is also a general recognition that the principles of environmental impact assessment should have stronger ties with the formulation of public policy and the development of planning goals and objectives. This would be particularly productive in that environmental factors should be 'up-front', providing a context for the analysis of individual proposals and programmes.

A national approach would seem a logical response to both the issues raised and the need to ensure that EIA is reflecting both present and projected needs of the community. The purposes of this exercise encompass:

- identification of common ground applying to all EIA jurisdictions
- agreement on present requirements and future directions for EIA in Australia in the 1990s
- action on administrative arrangements to increase efficiency of the process
- agreement that the most productive EIA process will be responsive and responsible, accessible, accountable and dynamic
- agreement that all jurisdictions should continue to work toward the attainment of the national principles and practice identified as appropriate for application Australia-wide.

4.2 RELEVANT ISSUES

The main concerns evident in recent studies and comment include the following:

- definition of purposes and parameters of EIA

- establishment of a national framework
- clear definition of the nature and scope of public participation
- reduced uncertainty in the application and outcome of the process
- need for standard monitoring provisions
- clarity in relationship to decision-making
- accountability throughout the process
- effectiveness of process
- statement of responsibilities of all participants
- efficiency in administration and related requirements
- timing throughout the process.

4.3 NATIONAL DIRECTIONS

In meeting the stated purposes of this national look at EIA, it must be emphasised that the time for action is now. It is important that all Australian governments take advantage of the opportunity to increase consistency and thus the effectiveness and efficiency of the process whilst accommodating increasing levels of environmental awareness and interest in actively contributing to the resolution of major environmental challenges facing this nation and others around the globe.

A concerted and co-operative programme involving the best intentions of all sectors throughout this decade will certainly pay dividends in terms of maximising our environmental assets. These assets will be the resource base with which the nation faces the year 2000 and beyond — an exciting prospect and one that requires considerable forward planning.

ANZECC efforts at commencing a national direction in EIA are the first steps to a more integrated overall approach to the protection and management of the environmental resources of Australia. The second step could be termed a “second generation” process and is envisaged to find expression within a few years — to ensure that the principles of EIA continue to contribute to policy, planning and management and to provide a practical tool to assist in meeting the objectives of ecologically sustainable development.

5. CONSULTATIONS

The Working Group held two separate rounds of consultations during the preparation of the national approach. Both were specifically targeted to key groups and individuals as the tight timetable was insufficient to allow general public consultation.

The first round of consultation involved seeking advice on how the Working Group would best meet its terms of reference. An outline was prepared of potential issues to be addressed and this was distributed as a basis for feedback.

The second round of consultation involved the circulation of a draft of the national approach for specific comment.

The Working Group as a whole consulted at the national level. While this primarily involved the seeking of written comments, a sub-group met with a number of national bodies and Commonwealth government agencies during the first round. The Working Group also met with one proponent group. Individual members of the Working Group consulted key organisations and persons at the State/Territory and Commonwealth level. This was done in a variety of ways but a number of written comments comprised the main result.

The Working Group pays tribute to all who assisted in the preparation of the national approach by providing information, advice and criticism. Cooperation from all involved has resulted in a substantially improved document as a consequence of detailed consideration being given to all

issues raised. Wherever possible the issues were taken into account. However, not surprisingly, there were some issues which were based on a different philosophical position to that taken by the Working Group.

A list of those invited to provide advice and comments is contained in Appendix B.

In summary, the key issues raised (primarily in response to a draft of the national approach) were:

General

- mostly general to strong support for a national approach to EIA
- prefer process to be conducted with joint consultation between proponent, assessing authority and community — in determination of guidelines, selection of consultant and funding, using proponent funds
- national approach should not be lowest common denominator
- draft falls short of addressing fundamental deficiencies and inconsistencies in current procedures
- the 'Practice' section recommends very few specifics to reduce uncertainty and delay
- national approach does not assist streamlining the approval processes
- current obstacles to investment not addressed
- draft is comprehensive and agree with recommendations and procedures; also concur with concept of main principles rather than uniformity in specifics
- too much left to ministerial or bureaucratic discretion

Terminology

- degree of controversy as criteria for requiring assessment questioned
- social and health considerations should be more visible
- fundamental features should be health of humans and the environment
- needs systems approach for cumulative effects, extra-territorial implications etc
- define "significant effect" and the environment in a systems perspective
- economic evaluation should be external to EIA

Relationship between EIA and Ecologically Sustainable Development

- understanding of "sustainable" not clear, as depletion of non-renewable resources would not appear to be ecologically sustainable practice and yet it is cited
- an objective of national approach should be to ensure that a consistent approach to environmental protection and ESD is taken between jurisdictions
- use precautionary principle — all decisions must err in favour of environmental protection
- economic considerations should not override rights to clean and safe environment
- EIA is one of the many tools for realising ESD
- need more comprehensive parameters for EIA if it is to contribute to ESD
- suggestion to include numerous other relevant principles and strategies of ESD, as contained in statements issued by the Commonwealth Government and as defined by the Prime Minister

Assessing authorities

- assessing authority and monitoring authority should be one and same, to avoid jurisdictional problems

- most useful improvements would be to ensure adequate resources available for assessing authority to administer the process
- must have full assessment of the costs and benefits to the community as a whole, including social and human health issues
- monitor project for lifecycle and beyond decommissioning
- principle of full environmental costing supported in general, but some techniques questionable, like contingent valuation as per Coronation Hill mining proposal
- should include a requirement in the section on uncertainty, such as: assessment of need for a qualifying statement or further investigation owing to uncertainty in findings; and risk assessment to identify probabilities and valuations of events
- cumulative impacts (with regional application) should be cited

Proponents

- proponent should supply resources to have the case prepared but not actually prepare it themselves, for purposes of increased objectivity
- proponent should be decision-maker on activation of EIA process
- proponent should take primary financial responsibility for environmental protection and management relating to their proposal
- proponent should ensure financial support to completely restore, rehabilitate, etc
- proponent should be given the opportunity to both object and seek compensation for the costs arising from delays or conditions

Public

- concern that the public may gain legal entitlement to monitor the actions of governments and their agencies
- public participation and involvement should be limited to comment period on draft documentation, within the EIA process
- support for a variety of methods to achieve community consultation
- public involvement at development stages of proposal rather than monitoring
- public participation must be increased, not minimised — need for social equity, protection of future generations, ensure third party appeal rights, public access to entire process
- third party appeals not supported
- public involvement questioned in administration of EIA process
- practicalities of public information and accountability not given
- need for people to feel that their input has been both heard and heeded
- legal standing for third party appeals suggested

Government

- appropriateness of financial support for community groups questioned
- concern that Commonwealth Government may be bound by state and local legislative requirements
- when State Government is assessing authority, then Local Government should be involved
- strong support for equal application of process to public and private proposals
- acknowledgement that some community groups may warrant support in participation but others based on political expediency
- a 'single determining authority' for each proposal must be the objective

- enforcement mechanisms not given
- assessment reports should be available to the public a considerable time before the decision-making process

Initiation of process

- concern at any effort to enable public, assessing agency or its Minister to initiate EIA process
- should be legislated guidelines for designated development — in each jurisdiction; these should also cover public or Local Government initiation of process
- Minister responsible for EIA could have power to initiate the EIA process, but only for public sector proposals

Time schedules

- problems with delays within the assessing authority
- strict timetables should be legislated

Outcomes

- clarification needed on some points such as the meaning of 'trade off'
- confidentiality clauses must include 'or prejudicial to national security interests'
- definition of 'commercial confidentiality' should not be left to proponent
- public interest should take precedence over commercial confidentiality
- need for national environmental guidelines with EIA being based on scientifically sound information and the guidelines

Interjurisdictional considerations

- single agreement with Commonwealth and States important

6. LIST OF APPROPRIATE TYPES OF PROPOSALS AND TECHNOLOGIES FOR NATIONAL GUIDELINES

The recent example of the development of national effluent guidelines for pulp mills in Australia has stimulated the request to the Working Group by ANZECC for a listing of other types of proposals and technologies for which national guidelines would be appropriate. (Note that the Working Group was not asked to prepare the actual guidelines.)

However, experience from the process of reaching national pulp mill guidelines illustrates some of the difficulties in reaching agreement across a range of receiving environments while being broad enough to allow some flexibility in the application of similar technology. The process commenced with the drawing up of Commonwealth guidelines in 1989 and has now progressed to the point of bilateral agreements being negotiated between the Commonwealth and Tasmania (nearly ready for signature), Victoria (draft agreement) and Western Australia (just commencing).

As well, in considering this matter, the Working Group was mindful that guidelines to protect the receiving environment should have primacy over industry or technology specific guidelines based on emission concentrations or loads. In this regard it should be noted that ANZECC has made considerable progress towards national guidelines for air quality, water quality, noise, contaminated sites and intractable wastes.

Apart from pursuing the preparation of industry or proposal-specific national guidelines, another mechanism for improving the timelines, quality and national consistency of the environmental assessment of technologies is to develop a central data base on environmental

aspects of existing and emerging technologies. The Working Group is aware of examples overseas which could provide a basis for this alternative approach.

There is no suggestion in the consideration of national guidelines that the environmental assessment of proposals or technologies on the list should await the development of such guidelines.

The following list relates more to categories of industries and technologies which would lend themselves to national guidelines rather than to specific types of proposals.

Extraction and conversion of raw materials

- technology of extraction (e.g. mining, quarrying, timber)
- primary conversion of raw materials (e.g. processing, refining, ore beneficiation, woodchipping)

Technology of industrial processes

- materials processing (e.g. crushing, grinding, chemical processing)
- metallurgy (e.g. roasting, smelting)
- materials handling (e.g. transport, packaging)

Agriculture and food production

- livestock and fisheries (e.g. piggeries, cattle feedlots)
- food processing (e.g. abattoirs, wineries)
- new product development (e.g. genetically modified organisms)
- broadacre crop production (e.g. large scale land clearing, large scale irrigation)

Technology of major industries

- manufacturing
- fabrication (e.g. steel, leather and hide, abrasives)
- process (e.g. chemical, petroleum, paper, plastics)
- construction (e.g. dams, marinas, boat harbours)
- service (e.g. tourism, transportation, airports)
- utilities (e.g. energy, communication, water supply, sewerage)
- industrial safety (e.g. risk assessment)

Waste management

- domestic
- industrial
- intractable/toxic/hazardous
- radioactive

APPENDIX A

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APPENDIX B

PEOPLE AND ORGANISATIONS INVITED BY THE WORKING GROUP TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND COMMENTS

Australian Conservation Foundation
Australian Conservation Foundation (WA)
Australian Conservation Foundation/World Wildlife Fund Ecologically Sustainable
Development Policy Unit
Australian Heritage Commission
Australian Local Government Association
Australian Manufacturing Council
Australian Mining Industry Council
Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service
Dr J Bailey, Lecturer in Environmental Assessment, Murdoch University (WA)
BHP Environmental Affairs
Professor R Buckley, Division of Science and Technology, Griffith University (Qld)
Building Owners and Managers Association (Canberra)
Bureau of Industry Economics
Business Council of Australia
Canberra Association for Regional Development
Central Australian Conservation Council
Central Land Council (NT)
Chamber of Mines (NT)
Chamber of Mines, Metals and Extractive Industries (NSW)
Conservation Council of the South East Region and Canberra
Conservation Council of Western Australia Inc
Department of Administrative Services (Commonwealth)
Department of the Arts, Sport, the Environment, Tourism and Territories (Commonwealth)
Department of the Chief Minister (NT)
Department of Defence (Commonwealth)
Department of Environment and Heritage (Qld)
Department of Environment, Lands and Planning (ACT)
Department of Environment and Planning (SA)
Department of Environment and Planning (Tas)
Department of Industry Technology and Commerce (Commonwealth)
Department of Lands and Housing (NT)
Department of Mines and Energy (NT)
Department of Planning (NSW)
Department of Planning and Housing (Vic)
Department of Planning and Urban Development (WA)
Department of Primary Industries and Energy (Commonwealth)
Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Commonwealth)
Department of Premier and Cabinet (WA)

Department of State Development (NSW)
 Department of State Development (WA)
 Department of Transport and Communications (Commonwealth)
 Department of the Treasury (Commonwealth)
 Environment Centre of the Northern Territory
 Environment Institute of Australia
 Environmental Protection Authority (WA)
 Environmental Protection Service, ACT Government
 Federal Airports Corporation
 Mr R J Fowler, Senior Lecturer in Law, University of Adelaide
 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
 Greenpeace Australia Ltd
 Dr M Hollick, Centre for Water Research, University of Western Australia
 Institution of Engineers, Australia
 Law Institute of Victoria, Environmental Law Section
 National Environmental Law Association
 National Health and Medical Research Council
 National Trust (NT)
 Northern Land Council (NT)
 Northern Territory Conservation Commission
 Dr B J O'Brien, Brian J O'Brien & Associates
 Queensland Conservation Council
 Resource Assessment Commission
 Secretariat, Ecologically Sustainable Development Working Groups
 Social Impact Unit (WA)
 State Pollution Control Commission (NSW)
 The Association of Consulting Engineers, Australia
 The Chamber of Mines and Energy of Western Australian Inc
 The Confederation of Western Australian Industry
 The Wilderness Society
 Very Fast Train Consortium
 Victorian Chamber of Mines
 Western Australian Municipal Association