

Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme

Ensuring quality in environmental and social management systems



AGENDA

1. [Overview](#) of the CEnvP Scheme
2. [Why](#) become a CEnvP
3. [Application](#) Process
4. [Impact Assessment](#) & [General](#) certification requirements
5. Application Advice
6. Impact Assessment [Competencies](#)
7. Recognition
8. Questions



Disclaimer: Information contained in this presentation is correct at time of publication.
Certifications requirements are amended from time to time to evolve with needs. 16/11/2023.

About CEnvP



Mission statement

To serve the environmental and social professional community. Deliver a trusted and leading certification scheme that provides an independent mechanism to demonstrate professional skills and high standards of conduct.

Background

The Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand Inc (EIANZ) launched the CEnvP Scheme in 2004 to:

- certify environmental practitioners rather than accredit academic institutions
- meet community demand for greater environmental accountability from industry and government
- based on ISO/IEC 17024:2012 “Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons”

Current position

- CEnvP certifies environmental and social professionals as both ethical and competent
- The certification process rigorously vets applications against stringent, industry-recognised criteria
- As of 3 November 2023, there are **1180 CEnvPs** across New Zealand and Australia



Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) Scheme

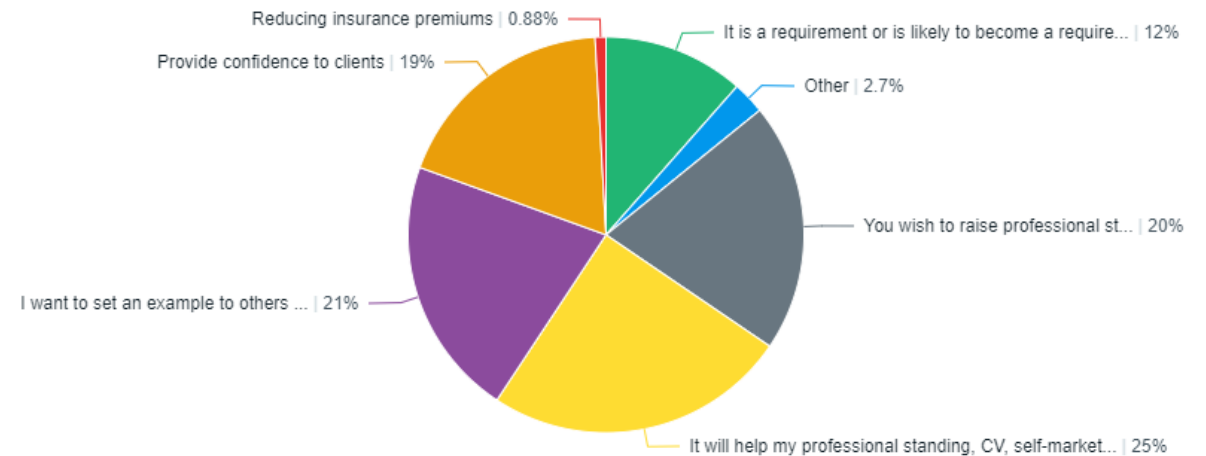
- Practitioner-led scheme
- Provides for a general certification and specialist certifications: Impact Assessment, Site Contamination, Ecology, Heritage, Climate Change, Geomorphology, now has Social Impact Assessment
- Has its own Board, appeals process and a third-party complaint process, as per compliance with ISO 17024 “Conformity assessment – General requirements for bodies operating certification of persons.”
- Relies on assessment by three-person practitioner panel
- Final decision made by CEnvP Board
- Open to any environmental professional
- Small number (paid) administrative staff

Why become a CEnvP?

- Give confidence to clients and the community
- Develop your reputation for trusted practice
- Gain the edge and show you've been assessed to meet a standard of practice, ethics and integrity
- Future-proof your career as regulations shift
- Career advancement
- Enhance your professional marketability on your C.V.



4. What are your motivations for becoming/staying certified?



*2023 Survey of CEnvP.

Certification Types



CEnvPs	Total
General	738
Site Contamination	317
Impact Assessment + NSW REAP	48
Ecology	33
Impact Assessment	25
Geomorphology	8
Climate Change	6
Heritage	4
Social Impact Assessment (new 2023)	1
TOTAL**	1,180*

Specialist certifications

- Require a minimum of 10 years FTE experience
- Submit reports on their work for review and interrogation
- Mostly require written testimony addressing key proficiencies

*accurate at 3 November 2023



Regulations

Government bodies are increasingly demanding Certified Practitioners



Australian Government

“The government recognises that environmental industry-based certification schemes and voluntary codes already operate in Australia. An example of an industry-based certification scheme is the Certified Environmental Practitioner Program...”



South Australia



New South Wales EPA Contaminated Land Consultant Certification Policy, Version 3, Jan 2022

“Using a suitably qualified and experienced contaminated land consultant is critical for effective site assessment and remediation.”

The NSW EPA recognises the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand - Certified Environmental Practitioner (Site Contamination) (CEnvP (SC)).



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Revised 2021

Contaminated land management guidelines No 5 – Site investigation and analysis of soils

‘A certified environmental practitioner with site contamination specialisation (CEnvP (SC)) is considered to be a suitably qualified and experienced practitioner (SQEP), provided that their qualifications and experience are relevant to the specific work being undertaken’.

If the investigation is being carried out to meet a regulatory requirement of the NESCS, the investigation must be done by a SQEP, who must also certify the report.



Planning,
Industry &
Environment

Regulatory demand



“The EPA has a policy to recognise certification bodies and schemes which certify site contamination practitioners as suitably qualified and experienced professionals... As of August 2019, all work regulated by the EPA through the use of statutory instruments requires the preparation, or review and approval, by a certified site contamination practitioner.”



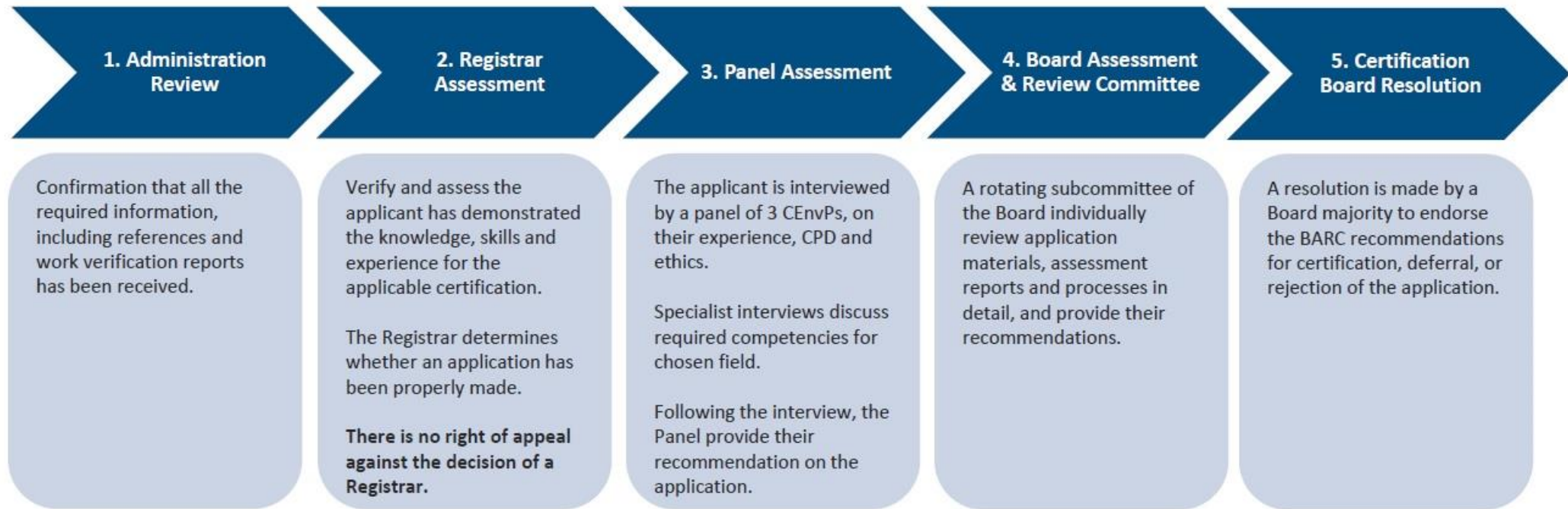
Planning,
Industry &
Environment

“For the purposes of **registered environmental assessment practitioners** in connection with the preparation of **environmental impact statements** for State significant development and State significant infrastructure under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*... **CEnvP Impact Assessment REAP Scheme** provided by Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme”



Ministry for the
Environment
Manatū Mō Te Taiao

Certification is a five-step process



Appeals.

If deferred or rejected by the Board, there is 28-day period you may appeal the decision through the Certification Appeals Committee.



Two assessment stages

Online (written) Application – step 2

Assessed by Registrar

Competency Assessment (specialist)

Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct

Commitment to CPD

Work Experience verification

Qualifications & Referees

Interview Assessment – step 3

Assessed by 3 CEnvP Interview Panellists

Contribution to sustainability, environmental protection and improvement

Competencies

Ethical Scenarios

Commitment to CPD

Work Experience

Application requirements



	General	IA Specialist
A relevant degree at Bachelor, Master or PhD level	✓	✓
Five years of full-time equivalent experience within the last 10 years	✓	
A minimum of ten years of full-time equivalent experience in environmental practice, during the last 17 years; of which 5 of those years must be in Impact Assessment.		✓
A detailed CV	✓	✓
Written responses to competencies and proficiencies, and supporting evidence (reports, publications etc.)		✓
Three referees from the environment profession, including one external to your current place of work to support their application as being a respected, competent, ethical and active member of the profession	✓	✓
A commitment to Continued Professional Development (100 points to be submitted every two years) A detailed CPD plan.	✓	✓
Agreement to the EIANZ Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct	✓	✓
A signed and witnessed Statement of Claim	✓	✓

For full specialist competencies and proficiencies, see the Guidance Notes at cenvp.org



Impact Assessment Practitioners



For the purposes of certification, Impact Assessment (IA) practice is considered to be “the process of identifying, predicting, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social and other relevant effects of developments prior to major decisions being taken and commitments made.”

An IA Practitioner must demonstrate they are competent to lead and integrate comprehensive multidisciplinary IA studies.

IA Practitioners are integral in ensuring accountability from industry and government when it comes to considering the potential environmental and social effects of human development.

[Impact Assessment Specialist \(CEnvP-IA\) - CEnvP Scheme](#)

Impact Assessment Competencies

The following proficiencies must be demonstrated by an Impact Assessment Specialist in both written application and interview.



- **Professional Practice**
 - Plan and engagement in continuous learning
 - Use of appropriate information technologies and techniques
- **Environmental Awareness**
 - Understanding of environmental values, current principles and frameworks.
- **Analysis and Assessment**
 - Identification of impact sources, usage of appropriate environmental tools/ techniques/methods, and compilation of relevant information.
 - Analysis of data, assessment of its reliability & accuracy, interpretation and presentation
- **Environmental Policy and Planning**
 - Planning, implementation, evaluation and improvement of systems, policies and procedures. Understanding, assessment of conformance to and design regulatory frameworks, accountabilities and standards for policies & activities.

Impact Assessment Specialist criteria

Criteria 1 - IA Methods



Applicants must demonstrate a thorough understanding of IA methods, by describing the following using practical examples:

- the role and limitations of IA in environmental planning and decision making
- the various stages in the IA process and their purposes
- the use of strategic and cumulative assessment
- risk assessment and management principles and application
- the use of other environmental management tools, such as environmental management systems; environmental auditing and life cycle assessment
- emerging issues and trends in IA nationally and internationally

Criteria 2 – Analytical capability



Applicants must demonstrate high level analytical skills that draw on knowledge and experience and can be applied across disciplines by addressing the following:

- describe the IA legislation in the jurisdiction within which they operate.
- demonstrate an understanding of environmental and social issues as well as Indigenous considerations, and their interconnections through rational and objective thinking and the application of commonsense / professional judgment.
- understand the regulatory frameworks, guidelines, methodologies and reporting requirements for specialist inputs to the IA process.
- evaluate the impacts of a project as a whole by interpreting applicable government policy, integrating the findings of detailed technical studies and understanding and considering competing views on the merits of the project.
- effectively apply scoping and prioritizing tools/methods to determine relevant environmental and social issues, relative importance and investigations required to address them.
- identify how baseline information may be gathered and describe the factors that can affect the quality of this information.
- determine the significance of impacts at scales from the strategic, to regional, local and site specific levels.
- identify when to apply adaptive measures such as avoid, mitigate, manage and/or offset.
- review the technical quality of IA documents.
- describe the role and limitations of modelling in IA.
- identify opportunities for environmental enhancements and social benefits.
- look beyond compliance to promote best practice.
- explain the importance of monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management.



Criteria 3 – Interpersonal skills

Applicants must demonstrate robust interpersonal skills across a range of stakeholders by addressing the following:

- Demonstrate the communication skills required for effective public engagement, collaboration and consultation
- Clearly express complex concepts and ideas, orally and in writing
- Develop effective working relationships with stakeholders, including proponents, technical specialists, community groups and government regulators
- Understand and address conflicting viewpoints of different stakeholders from their own perspectives
- Exercise perception and judgment in dealing with complex and sensitive issues.
- Work collaboratively with technical specialists
- Prepare EISs and other assessment documents that are succinct and easy to understand; technically robust; scientifically factual and capture community views



Relevance to Pacific Island experience

- No restriction on those working in the Pacific Islands applying now
- Example of specific scheme established - NSW Registered Environmental Assessment Practitioner (REAP)
- A NSW REAP must have completed the requirements for the CEnvP Impact Assessment specialist certification, plus:
 - Met specific requirements defined by that regulator = submit evidence that the applicant has worked in the field of regulatory approvals and impact assessments as a member of a project team on four or more projects with three or more NSW regulators or authorities
- [CEnvP-IA Specialist NSW REAP Module - CEnvP Scheme](#)
- The Scheme remains responsible for assessing proficiency. The country only needs to assess local experience.

A newly certified practitioner receives



- Official Certificate
- CEnvP post-nominal
 - e.g. John Doe CEnvP (IA Specialist)
- CEnvP Logo and Electronic Seal
- CEnvP Online Directory
- Certified Professional Development begins
- Status as having reached a senior level of competency as measured by your peers



Further Questions?

For application forms, guidance notes, eligibility assessment form and further general information, please visit the CEnvP website.



www.cenvp.org



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Follow us on LinkedIn – [Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme \(org\)](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cenvp-uk)