



MEDIA RELEASE

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CEnvP Scheme Certifies First Social Impact Assessment Specialist

In a global first, the Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) Scheme this month certified its first specialist in Social Impact Assessment (SIA).

The CEnvP Scheme and its Specialist Environmental Advisory Committee (SEAC) for SIA is delighted to announce that **Dr. Richard Parsons** has been awarded the title of **Certified Environmental Practitioner - Social Impact Assessment Specialist**. Richard currently leads the Social Value and Engagement team at SMEC, and previously led the technical development and implementation of the SIA guidelines with NSW Department of Planning and Environment.

In late 2022, and in response to industry and practitioner demand, the CEnvP-SIA specialist certification was launched to recognise the extensive professional experience, skills, and ethical conduct of eligible SIA practitioners. As recognised by the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA), certification benefits practitioners, employers, and proponents across both the public and private sectors.

Richard says, 'Certification is an important achievement for me. It reflects the view among your peers that you are suitably qualified and experienced to practise competently and ethically. I am incredibly humbled to receive this certification, especially knowing there are many great SIA practitioners who are at least equally well qualified and/or experienced. I look forward to being one among many certified SIA practitioners, all dedicated to achieving equitable and sustainable social and cultural outcomes through collaborative practice.'

The CEnvP-SIA certification gives practitioners the opportunity to become certified, representing a significant milestone for the field of social practice. Developed under the guidance of a Specialist Environmental Advisory Committee comprising experts from Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and Europe, the certification aims to recognise practitioners who meet benchmarks of best practice in SIA.

'There has been increasing recognition that SIA is a specialist discipline, so it is exciting to see the Scheme recognise this by providing such a certification opportunity,' **Stephanie Brown, Chair of the CEnvP Scheme Certification Board** said.

'I encourage all those passionate SIA practitioners out there to register their interest in the specialist certification which not only has tremendous personal benefits, but will also contribute significantly in raising the bar of SIA practice in ANZ,' **Dr Sheridan Coakes, former Chair of CEnvP SIA-SEAC and CEnvP Board Member** said.



Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme

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About the Social Impact Assessment Specialist Certification

Practitioners who have at least 10 years' full-time equivalent experience in social practice across the past 17 years, with five of those in SIA practice are encouraged to apply. For more information on the requirements, and to apply, see the [Guidance Notes](#) on the CEnvP website.

About the CEnvP Scheme

The Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) Scheme is the leading certification body for environmental and social professionals across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand. The Scheme ensures talented, skilled, and ethical environmental and social professionals are given due recognition through a robust and impartial certification process. For more information, visit our website at www.cenvp.org