

Sustainability Assessment Symposium 2010 Towards Strategic Assessment for Sustainability

Land use planning and sustainability assessment – SEA morphing into SA

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Where have we come from?

- Over 35 years of project EIA practice
- First enshrined in the United States in the *National Environmental Policy Act* of 1969 (enacted in 1970)
- By mid 1980s concern emerged that project EIA was happening too late
 - key project planning decisions already made
 - Strategic land use planning decision already made
- Emergence of SEA – plans, policies and programmes

Two types of SEA

- Discrete
 - a derivation of project based EIA
 - EIA principles and methods to assess 3 Ps
- Integrative
 - on-going process of integrating environmental aims in decision making from the early stages (policy making and plan making)

International SEA

- SEA more advanced in Europe and North America
 - SEA is probably most advanced in Europe
- EU adopted a SEA directive in 2001
- Requiring all member nations to carry out SEAs for plans and programmes prepared for
 - agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism and land use planning
- Methodology mixed
 - Often planning agency does the SEA

SEA morphs into SA

- In practice, SEA has become broader than just environmental assessment
 - Early consideration of environmental issues had to take into account social and economic considerations.
- This has primarily come out of the integrative SEA stream.
- In effect, it is becoming sustainability assessment or appraisal.

SEA in WA – barriers towards SA?

- SEA in WA discrete not integrative
 - EP Act and selective primacy of environmental issues
 - EPBC Act (matters of National environmental significance) and federal structure
- Planners of view they already do SA
- More in presentation