

# DIGITAL IA: EXPLORING WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S TRANSFORMATION TO DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

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**International Association  
for Impact Assessment**



***Welcome!***

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**#iaiawebinar**

- ✓ **Webinars on demand, available to all:**
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# Housekeeping



- ✓ Recording?
- ✓ Questions?
- ✓ Slides available?

# DIGITAL IA: EXPLORING WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S TRANSFORMATION TO DIGITAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

***Moderator:*** **Josh Fothergill**  
*Fothergill Training & Consulting*  
*UK*

***Panelist:*** **Chris Gentle**  
*WABSI*  
*Australia*



*The State of Digital IA Practice*  
Webinar Series

# Exploring Western Australia's Transformation to Digital Environmental Assessments

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**SAFE** - Shared Analytic Framework for the Environment



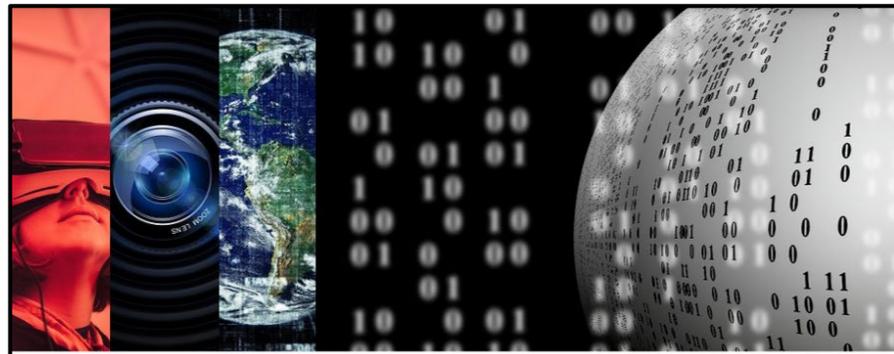
# The State of Digital Impact Assessment Practice

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# Context



## The State of Digital Impact Assessment Practice

A global review of the uptake of digital technologies and approaches within impact assessment practice



# *The State of Digital IA Practice Report*

launch December 2021:

<https://www.fothergilltc.com/digital>

Launch Webinar:

<https://www.iaia.org/webinar-details.php?ID=38>

Digital IA workspace webinar Mar'22:

<https://www.iaia.org/webinar-details.php?ID=43>

# What is Digital Impact Assessment?

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# Defining Digital IA...

- No adopted definition of what digital IA is considered to be.
- Lots of different views based on experience and perspective on IA practice

***“The use of advances in digital technologies and their applications in the pursuit of enabling more effective IA practice.”***

**Fothergill & Murphy , 2021**

# Digital Transformation of IA

## A Global Phenomenon

### North America:

- Canada, Environmental database management system
- IFC, Artificial Intelligence, and data innovation for social license

### Europe

- Iceland, Early example of the potential of digital EIS
- Netherlands, Digital EIS, diagnostic tool country ESIA systems
- Serbia, Envigo digital IA platform

### Asia

- China (Hong Kong), Virtual and hybrid reality systems
- Singapore, Autonomous vehicles + automated decision support systems
- Nepal, drones + digital air quality devices



### South America

- Chile, Remote sensing and live database EIA follow-up
- Guyana, Imagery + GIS to map coastal ecosystem services, with in-field verification.

### Africa

- Kenya, Drones surveys
- Nigeria, Developing digital EIA project + drone surveys
- South Africa, digital screening platform

### Australasia

- Australia, digital EIA studies, reports and monitoring system.

# The Report Explores **10 Elements** of Digital IA Practice

<b>Digital Impact Assessment</b>	
Digital Approaches & Technologies enabling progress in Digital IA	Digital Transformation within Aspects of the IA process
<b>inter-IA and online environmental and social management systems</b>	Digital screening tools
Digital baseline data capture devices	Digital IA platform / workspace
Artificial intelligence (AI) in IA	Digital stakeholder engagement
IA and virtual, augmented & mixed realities	Digital EIS and web-based reporting
Online learning and capacity building	Digital follow-up: monitoring and auditing

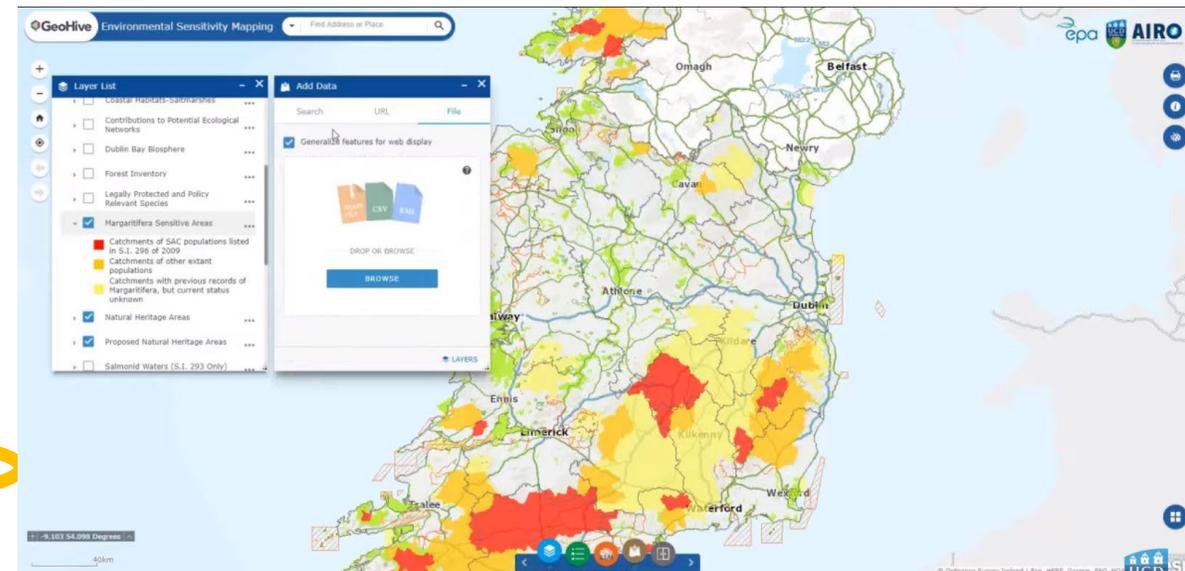
# Digital Inter-IA & online environmental and social data management systems

From online portal for E&S data viewing + download to far more inventive and integrated systems.

A challenge is generating greater value from the intellectual capital generated by the IA process / monitoring that results.

Examples include:

- **Env Portals:** UK = magic.gov.uk Denmark = miljoeportal.dk/English
- **IA Tools:** Qcumber – IA mapping system, S.Africa's National Screening Tool
- **Significance weighting:** Ireland = Environmental Sensitivity Mapper
- **Multi-sector broad Geograpy system** = W.Australia SAFE



<https://enviromap.ie/>



# *Exploring Western Australia's Transformation to Digital Environmental Assessments*

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*SAFE - Shared Analytic Framework for the  
Environment*



SpaceX image, sourced from  
[www.unsplash.com](http://www.unsplash.com)

# ***Thank you!***

Let's continue the discussion:

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