

SECTION 1 BASIC INFORMATION

1a Trainers

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1b Title of Course

Practical Guide to Sustainability Assessment

1c Type of Activity

Course

1d Language of Offering

English

1e Number of Days

1 day and 2 day course (participants can choose whether to just participate in the first day, or undertake both days)

SECTION 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE

2a Narrative Description

Sustainability assessment is a tool that informs decision-making with the aim of promoting sustainable outcomes. Sustainability assessment can be applied in different circumstances for different purposes by different types of decision-makers, including:

- government regulators as an approvals process for proposals (particularly project proposals), analogous to environmental impact assessment;
- proponents (and their consultants, planners, engineers etc) to inform the development of a proposal, which could be a policy, plan, programme or a project;
- government regulators, non-government organisations or any other interested party to assess the sustainability of current practices, such as a whole industry sector.

This course presents an introduction to the theory and practice of sustainability assessment based on best practice examples from around the world.

Target audience: This course is designed for planners, government agency personnel, proponents and consultants, and students in IA related fields. No prior experience with sustainability assessment is assumed but a solid understanding of IA processes will be beneficial to the participant. The course will have a general applicability to all fields of IA (i.e., environmental, health, socio-economic, SEA).

Learning objectives: In this course participants will develop an understanding of:

- Sustainability assessment principles, processes and issues;
- Sustainability assessment as a tool for the approval of new development proposals;
- How sustainability assessment can be used to inform the development of proposals ranging from projects to plans and policies;
- Various tools and techniques that can be employed in sustainability assessments; and
- How to operationalise sustainability in the context of a particular decision by developing a sustainability decision-making protocol.

Content: The course content includes the following topics:

- What is sustainability assessment?
- Extending EIA to establish a sustainability assessment approvals process
- Developing a sustainability decision-making protocol
- Integrating sustainability assessment into decision-making
- Dealing with integration, offsets and trade-offs in sustainability assessment
- Sustainability assessment toolbox
- New directions and future challenges for sustainability assessment

Format: This course will feature a number of lectures interspersed with small group discussions and activities. Participants will be provided with a resource guide with state of the art information on sustainability assessment. Day 1 will be largely based around examples and theory. Day 2 will include an intensive interactive case study so that participants can apply their theoretical learning to a real life situation.

2b Outline of Course Program

The *Practical Guide to Sustainability Assessment* course will be conducted on an interactive basis. For each topic the trainers will present a short lecture followed by open discussion. Theoretical aspects will be presented followed by practical examples from around the world. For some topics, small group discussions and activities based around case study examples will also be utilised. A summary table of the topics, their content and mode of delivery follows.

DAY 1

Title	Topic Content	Activities
1.1. Welcome and introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce presenters – organisation affiliation and background • Introduce and meet participants • Outline aims of course and program of events 	introductions, lecture
1.2. What is sustainability assessment?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly review origin and evolution of the sustainability (or sustainable development) concept • Present current definition(s) of sustainability assessment in use in leading jurisdictions and how sustainability assessment has been applied in some other jurisdictions 	lecture, discussion, participant reflections on their own approach to sustainability assessment
1.3. Sustainability assessment case studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcase of recent sustainability assessment case studies to draw out issues and challenges faced 	lecture, discussion
BREAK	MORNING COFFEE	
1.4. Extending EIA to establish a sustainability assessment approvals process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the form of sustainability assessment derived from EIA processes (EIA-driven triple bottom line impact assessment), and the implications, strengths and weaknesses of this approach • Need for a clearly defined basis for decisions about the sustainability of a proposal (a sustainability decision-making protocol) 	lecture, discussion (small group activity - adapt an existing EIA process that participants are familiar with to accommodate sustainability considerations)
1.5. Developing a sustainability decision-making protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore different models of sustainability assessment that embody different conceptualisations of sustainability • Explain what a 'sustainability decision-making protocol' is and how it can guide decision-making and sustainability assessment • How to 'scope' the assessment and establish appropriate objectives, targets and criteria • Understand the challenges inherent in developing the protocol 	lecture, discussion
BREAK	LUNCH	
1.6. Integrating sustainability assessment into decision-making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present a 7-step process model that integrates sustainability assessment with the development of a proposal • Understand how this integrated proactive approach improves decision-making processes • Review relationship between internal and external sustainability assessment processes 	lecture, discussion, small group activity (apply the 7-step process to a decision-making process that participants are currently involved with)
1.7. Dealing with integration, offsets and trade-offs in sustainability assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand that trade-offs are inevitable in sustainability decision-making and importance of making decisions carefully • Principles for guiding trade-offs decisions • Use of environmental offsets as a means of delivering positive environmental outcomes from (development) proposals 	lecture, discussion, small group activity (explain how to manage the trade-off process for a case study)
BREAK	AFTERNOON TEA	
1.8. Issues in sustainability assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the issues arising from the examples and matters addressed so far. 	lecture, discussion, participant reflections on issues relevant to their own jurisdiction

1.9. Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview and conclusions for Day 1 	lecture, discussion,
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DAY 2

Title	Topic Content	Activities
2.1. Water and Energy Supply Sustainability Assessment Case Study – Decision-making Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants are provided with real-life scenarios of planning for new water and energy supply systems. They are required to explain how they would undertake a sustainability assessment for the scenario. In this session, the emphasis is on devising a Decision-making Protocol. 	Small group exercise with reporting back to whole group.
<i>BREAK</i>	<i>MORNING COFFEE</i>	
2.2. Water and Energy Supply Sustainability Assessment Case Study – Trade-offs and Offsets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants continue with the new water and energy supply systems scenario. In this session, the emphasis is on explaining how trade-offs and offsets are to be managed. 	Small group exercise with reporting back to whole group.
<i>BREAK</i>	<i>LUNCH</i>	
2.3. Sustainability assessment toolbox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential uses of various different analytical techniques for generating impact data, their advantages and disadvantages and how they might apply to sustainability assessment 	lecture, discussion
<i>BREAK</i>	<i>AFTERNOON TEA</i>	
2.4. New directions and future challenges for sustainability assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how the applications of sustainability assessment discussed in this training course might fit into a holistic framework in which sources of ‘unsustainability’ are evaluated and addressed 	lecture, discussion, participant reflections on challenges they face
2.5. Conclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overview and conclusions for entire course Useful resources for sustainability assessment 	lecture, discussion,

2c Training Materials

Participants will be provided with an Sustainability Assessment Resource Guide which will contain copies of the powerpoint slides used in lecture presentations, the case studies to be worked on in the small group activity sessions and a list of useful publications, websites and other information sources on sustainability assessment.

2d Participant Background

The course is aimed at people who have basic to good knowledge of IA, but little or no knowledge of sustainability assessment.

2e Follow-up Support

The two presenters will be available to provide follow-up support through e-mail exchange, access to relevant websites and (immediately post-course through) participation in relevant workshops at IAIA07.

SECTION 3 Trainers

3a Curriculum Vitae of Presenters

We have worked together in conducting workshops and training courses on sustainability assessment for IA professionals working in the field in Australia and at IAIA conferences over the last four years. We are thus experienced at coordinating workshops and chairing discussions with a diverse international audience. We work well together and have successfully collaborated on several sustainability assessment publications. Individual details follow.

Jenny Pope

Qualifications: BEng (Chem) (First Class Honours)
Grad. Dip. Sci. (Biotechnology)

Current Position: PhD Candidate, Murdoch University
Director and Principal Consultant, Integral Sustainability

I have over 15 years experience in the field of environmental management, having worked as a process engineer in the water and oil industries and as a consultant to both the public and private sectors, in Australia and internationally.

I commenced my PhD research in sustainability assessment in 2002 and since that time have been extensively involved in the development and implementation of sustainability assessment processes in Western Australia, working with both the Government and the private sector in this area. In this capacity, I have given numerous presentations and facilitated several workshops on sustainability assessment. I have also taught environmental management and sustainability assessment at postgraduate level at Murdoch University for the past two years (*ENV521 Organisational Strategies for the Environment* and *STP 220/440 Sustainability for Professionals*). In addition, I have published a number of articles related to sustainability assessment in the last 3 years.

I have been a member of IAIA since 2003 and have been an active participant at IAIA03, IAIA04, IAIA06 and SEA05.

Angus Morrison-Saunders

Qualifications: BSc Environmental Science (First Class Honours)
PhD in Environmental Impact Assessment

Current Position Senior Lecturer in Environmental Assessment (Murdoch University, Australia)

I have been teaching environmental science units, including a course on EIA (*ENV420 Principles of Environmental Impact Assessment*), for more than 15 years at the university level. My PhD was on the effectiveness of EIA in terms of outcomes and this has been the focus of my research. I have published numerous journal articles on EIA (several in *IAPA* in recent years) including several specifically on sustainability assessment issues. I recently co-edited the book *Assessing Impact: Handbook of EIA and SEA Follow-up* (Earthscan, London, 2004) which included chapters addressing follow-up for sustainability assurance. I conducted an IA Follow-up training course at IAIA'05 which was very successful. I have been a member of IAIA since 1996 and am an active participant in the organisation (current Board Member, Book Review Editor for IAPA, member of the IAPA Board and chaired various workshops at IAIA conferences).

In short, I am an experienced IA trainer with appropriate qualifications and experience in sustainability assessment to ensure that the proposed training course is a success.