

Assessment
Environmental Impact Assessment

72296

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Assessment guidance

Contact your lecturer at any stage if you have questions about the assignments for this course. You will find your lecturer's contact details in the *welcome letter* sent out at the beginning of the semester.

Preparing your assignments

Some assignments have just one part; others may have several. Check the instructions for each assignment carefully. Make sure that you complete **all the required tasks** and adhere to any specified word limits.

Ensure that all work is completely your own and your sources of information are appropriately acknowledged. The Open Polytechnic has a zero-tolerance policy on plagiarism. Information on referencing and avoiding plagiarism is available in *StudyWise* and on the Learning Support pages on Online Campus. Copies of *StudyWise* are available on request.

Formatting

Formatting requirements vary for different courses. For this course your work should be word processed or typed if possible. Leave a four to five centimetre margin at the left of each page for marking comments.

Number all pages of your assignment and write on each

- your name and student number
- the course number and assignment number.

Example:

Teresa Green: Student number 1234567

72296: Assignment 1

Meeting the deadlines

Meeting deadlines is an important part of distance study. It helps you keep up with your study programme and means that your lecturer can send out feedback that may help you with your next assignment.

The *welcome letter* from your lecturer gives you the exact due date for each assignment. Note this information carefully.

If you think you will be unable to meet a deadline, ask your lecturer for an extension **before** your work is due. Make sure that you meet the new agreed due date. Late submissions may be returned unmarked.

See the *Student Handbook* for more details on due dates and extensions.

Sending in your work

Before you send in your work, make sure you have

- completed all tasks and met any stated assessment criteria
- checked your work carefully
- included all parts, including any references and appendices.

Keep a copy of your assignment for your own files and as a backup, in case the original is lost.

The Open Polytechnic has a tracking system that records the date your work was received. You can send an assignment to The Open Polytechnic

- by posting it in one of the envelopes provided, or
- by submitting it electronically via the Online Campus. You can access the Online Campus either through <http://campus.openpolytechnic.ac.nz/moodle> or through The Open Polytechnic's website at <http://www.openpolytechnic.ac.nz>, then click on the Online Campus link.

Do not post, fax or email assignments directly to your lecturer, as there is no tracking system covering this route. Any assignment sent in this way will not be read or marked.

Last word

Do your best and enjoy! Completing assignments may sometimes be a challenge but it is usually very rewarding. It is often the part of the course where you do your most valuable learning.

Assignment 1

**Worth
30%**

Understanding EIA

Your task

Write a report critically assessing the approach New Zealand has taken to environmental impact assessment (EIA) to date. Your report should consider the purpose and principles of EIA and discuss to what extent EIA is incorporated within New Zealand's environmental management arrangements.

The total word length of your assignment should be approximately 2000-2500 words.

Resources for Assignment 1

In addition to your own research, you will find the following resources useful:

- Modules 1 to 2 and associated readings
- www.legislation.govt.nz or the Brookers Online database. See your *Course Information* for details on accessing the Brookers Online database.
- Recommended and additional readings and websites listed in your *Course Information*.

The following readings will be useful in helping develop your understanding of the topic:

Boshier, J. (1998). 25 years of impact assessment in New Zealand. *Planning Quarterly*, 130, 18-20.

Fookes, T. (2000). Environmental assessment under the Resource Management Act 1991. In P. A. Memon & H. C. Perkins (Eds.), *Environmental planning and management in New Zealand* (pp. 80-92). Palmerston North, New Zealand: Dunmore Press.

Glasson, J., Therivel, R., & Chadwick, A. (2005). *Introduction to environmental impact assessment: principles and procedures, process, practice, and prospects*. London: Routledge.

International Association for Impact Assessment in cooperation with Institute of Environmental Assessment. (1999). *Principles of Environmental Assessment Best Practice*. Available online at <http://www.iaia.org>

Morgan, R. K. (1998). *Environmental impact assessment: a methodological perspective*. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic.

Noble, B. F. (2006). *Introduction to environmental impact assessment: a guide to principles and practice*. Don Mills, Ontario; New York: Oxford University Press.

RMIT University & UNU Online Learning. (n.d). *Environmental Impact Assessment Open Educational Resource*. Tokyo, Japan: United Nations University Online Learning; Melbourne, Australia: RMIT University; Geneva, Switzerland: United Nations Environment Programme. Available online at <http://eia.unu.edu/course>. See the 'Background' and 'Law, Policy and Institutional Arrangements' sections.

Sadler, B. (2001). Environmental Impact Assessment: An International Perspective with Comparisons to New Zealand. In J. Lumsden (Ed.), *Assessment of Environmental Effects: Information, Evaluation and Outcomes* (pp1-18 & 35-47). Christchurch, New Zealand: Centre for Advanced Engineering.

Smith, G. L. (1993). *Impact Assessment and Sustainable Resource Management*. England, UK: Longman Group UK Ltd.

Taylor, R., & Smith, I. [Principal authors]. (1997). *The state of New Zealand's environment 1997* (pp. 4.1-4.30). Wellington, New Zealand: Ministry for the Environment. Available online at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz>

Wells, C., & Fookes, T. (1988). *Resource management law reform: impact assessment in resource management, Working Paper No. 20*. Wellington, New Zealand: Ministry for the Environment.

Wood, C. (1995). *Environmental Impact Assessment: A Comparative Review*. England: Longman Group UK Ltd.

Criteria for assessment

In marking your assignment, your lecturer will be looking for

- identification of relevant issues raised by the assignment task
- evidence of analysis and critical evaluation
- clear and reasoned argument
- use of readings and supplementary material
- acknowledgement of all sources of information using APA referencing
- clear and accurate written expression.

Report format

Your report should provide the following components:

- Introduction, briefly introducing the topic of your report
- Main body, structured into appropriate sections and sub-sections. Use headings and sub-headings to structure your discussion.
- Conclusion, drawing together your main findings.
- Bibliography, listing the readings and other information sources you have used. Bibliographic references should be in APA format.

The Open Polytechnic's *StudyWise* guide provides further information on report writing and APA referencing. Copies of *StudyWise* are available on request. You can also find information on report writing and referencing on the Learning Support pages on Online Campus.

Assignment checklist

1. When you have prepared your first draft, check it against the criteria for assessment above.
2. Before you send in your assignment, make sure you do a final proof read to check your spelling and grammar.

Assignment 2

**Worth
30%**

Putting EIA into practice

Dairy farming has recently expanded in the Waiwhetu region, providing a boost to the local economy. To cope with the increased milk production, a dairy company is proposing to set up a new factory. The factory will be located close to the Waiwhetu River, the region's main waterway. To operate the new factory, the proponents want to take water from the river and discharge wastewater from the plant back into the waterway.

There is already a dairy factory in the area producing milk products. The factory has existing discharge permits which are not up for review for another 10 years. At present, it uses 10,000 cubic metres of water from the river and discharges the same amount into the waterway. The wastewater is two degrees celsius warmer than the temperature of the river.

Many prominent people are welcoming the growth of dairying in the region and believe the new factory will bring more jobs to the area. However, others are concerned about the potential environmental impacts of the development. Environment groups and iwi argue water quality is already being affected by waste generated from local farms and want to see the river cleaned up.

Note: Waiwhetu is a fictitious region.

Your task

1. Discuss the potential effects of building the new factory and any other matters that should be considered at the scoping stage of EIA.
30 marks
2. Explain how you would identify the significant effects. Discuss any difficulties in determining the significance of effects within EIA.
40 marks
3. Discuss the role of mitigation in EIA and possible measures to address the potential impacts of the proposed development.
20 marks

4. Referencing and use of secondary resources.

10 marks

Your assignment should be approximately 2000–2500 words in length.

Resources for Assignment 2

In addition to your own research, you will find the following resources useful:

- Module 3 and associated readings
- www.legislation.govt.nz or the Brookers Online database. See your *Course Information* for details on accessing the Brookers Online database.
- Recommended and additional readings and websites listed in your *Course Information*.

The following readings will be useful in helping develop your understanding of the topic:

Barrow, C. J. (1997). *Environmental and social impact assessment: an introduction*. London, England: Sydney, Australia: Arnold.

Cullen, R., Hughey, K., & Kerr, G. (2006). New Zealand freshwater management and agricultural impacts. *The Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*, 50(3), 327-346. Available online through the EBSCOhost database. Access to EBSCOhost is gained through The Open Polytechnic Library online database.

Glasson, J. Therivel, R & Chadwick, A. (2005). *Introduction to environmental impact assessment: principles and procedures, process, practice, and prospects*. London: Routledge.

Lawrence, D. P. (2007). Impact significance determination – Back to basics. *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 27(8), 755-769. Available through The Open Polytechnic Library online database.

Milne, P. (2008). When is enough, enough? Dealing with cumulative impacts under the RMA. *Resource Management Journal*, April 2008. Available online at <http://www.rmla.org>

Morgan, R. K. (1998). *Environmental impact assessment: a methodological perspective*. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic.

- Noble, B. F. (2006). *Introduction to environmental impact assessment: a guide to principles and practice*. Don Mills, Ontario; New York: Oxford University Press.
- Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. (2004). *Growing for Good: Intensive farming, sustainability and New Zealand's environment*. Wellington, New Zealand: Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. Available online at www.pce.govt.nz
- RMIT University & UNU Online Learning. (n.d). *Environmental Impact Assessment Open Educational Resource*. Tokyo, Japan: United Nations University Online Learning; Melbourne, Australia: RMIT University; Geneva, Switzerland: United Nations Environment Programme. Available online at <http://eia.unu.edu/course>. See the 'Scoping', 'Impact analysis' and 'Mitigation and Impact Management' sections.
- Scarsbrook, M. (2006). *State and Trends in the National River Water Quality Network (1998-2005)*. Wellington, New Zealand: Ministry for the Environment. Available online at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz>
- Smith, G. L. (1993). *Impact Assessment and Sustainable Resource Management*. England, UK: Longman Group UK Ltd.
- Taylor, R. & Smith, I. (1997). *The state of New Zealand's environment 1997* (pp. 7.58-7.59). Wellington, New Zealand: Ministry for the Environment. Available online at <http://www.mfe.govt.nz>
- Van Roon, M. & Knight, S. (2004). *Ecological Context of Development: New Zealand Perspectives*. Auckland, New Zealand: Oxford University Press.
- White, M. (2007, November). Fats Cows and Filthy Streams. *North & South*, 260, 52-63.

Criteria for assessment

In marking your assignment, your lecturer will be looking for

- identification of relevant issues raised by the assignment task
- evidence of analysis and critical evaluation
- clear and reasoned argument
- use of readings and supplementary material
- acknowledgement of all sources of information using APA referencing
- clear and accurate written expression.

Assignment checklist

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Assignment 3

Worth
40%

Public participation

Your task

Write a 3000 word essay critically discussing the following statement:

Councils often do not have the inclination to challenge an AEE, particularly if the development may bring benefits to the region. It therefore often falls to individuals or public interest groups to grasp the thorn and challenge them. (Grinlinton, 2000, pp. 110-111) (Reading 4.5)

Your essay should consider the requirements for consultation in preparing assessments of environmental effects (AEEs) under the Resource Management Act, evidence supporting or refuting Grinlinton's statement and arrive at a conclusion on whether you agree or disagree with the statement based on the evidence you have identified.

Illustrate your essay with practical examples. Use the material you have collected in your clippings file of current environmental issues for this.

Resources for Assignment 3

In addition to your own research, you will find the following resources useful:

- Modules 4 and 5
- www.legislation.govt.nz or the Brookers database.
- Recommended and additional readings and websites listed in your *Course Information*.

The following readings will be useful in helping develop your understanding of the topic:

- Environmental impact assessment: how does the process work and how effective is it?* [videorecording (DVD)]. A 23 minute DVD produced by Australian company Classroom Video.
- Grinlinton, D. (2000). Improving environmental assessment under the RMA. *Resource Management Bulletin*, 3(10), 109-112.
- Harding, R. (1998). *Environmental decision-making: The roles of scientists, engineers and the public* (pp. 108–132). Sydney, Australia: The Federation Press.
- Johnson, A. (2002). *Public involvement in environmental impact assessment: A review of three case studies of participation in the notified resource consent process of the Resource Management Act*. Dunedin, New Zealand: Centre for Impact Assessment Research and Training, University of Otago.
- Mitcalfe, K. (n.d.). Valuing our environment: The costs of the RMA. Available online at <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/RM/costsofrma.pdf>.
- Morgan, R. K. (1998). *Environmental impact assessment: a methodological perspective*. Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic.
- Morgan, R. K. (2000). The practice of environmental impact assessment in New Zealand: Problems and prospects. In P. A. Memon & H. C. Perkins (Eds.), *Environmental planning and management in New Zealand* (pp. 94–104). Palmerston North, New Zealand: Dunmore Press Ltd.
- Noble, B. F. (2006). *Introduction to environmental impact assessment: a guide to principles and practice*. Don Mills, Ontario; New York: Oxford University Press.
- Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. (1995). *Assessment of environmental effects (AAE): Administration by three Territorial Authorities*. Wellington, New Zealand: Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.
- Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. (1996). *Public Participation under the Resource Management Act 1991: The Management of Conflict*. Wellington, New Zealand: Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment.
- Rive, V. (2005). Environmental assessment. In D. Nolan (Ed.), *Environmental and Resource Management Law* (3rd ed.) (pp.927-973). Wellington, New Zealand: LexisNexis NZ Limited.

RMIT University & UNU Online Learning. (n.d). *Environmental Impact Assessment Open Educational Resource*. Tokyo, Japan: United Nations University Online Learning; Melbourne, Australia: RMIT University; Geneva, Switzerland: United Nations Environment Programme. Available online at <http://eia.unu.edu/course>. See the 'Public Involvement' section.

Smith, G. L. (1993). *Impact Assessment and Sustainable Resource Management*. England, UK: Longman Group UK Ltd. See pages 50-75.

Wood, C. (2003). *Environmental Impact Assessment: A Comparative Review*. (2nd ed.). New York: Prentice-Hall.

Criteria for assessment

In marking your assignment, your lecturer will be looking for

- identification of relevant issues raised by the assignment task
- analysis and critical evaluation of information
- clear and reasoned argument
- evidence you have canvassed relevant literature
- use of examples to illustrate your discussion
- acknowledgement and referencing of all sources of information
- clear and accurate written expression.

Assignment checklist

1. When you have prepared your first draft, check it against the criteria for assessment above.
2. Before you send in your assignment, make sure you do a final proofread to check your spelling and grammar.