

EIA Services - Mitigation Hierarchy and Nature Positive Planning



Capability and Experience for full offering of EPBC Act strategic services and Nature Positive Plan

The Challenge

Threatened species

Under the EPBC Act, actions cannot result in impacts that are inconsistent with statutory recovery plans for threatened species.

Ramsar wetlands

Under the EPBC Act, the Minister cannot make a decision that is consistent with Ramsar wetland management principles or a relevant plan of management.

Commonwealth marine area

Impacts on the Commonwealth marine area, including ecological, social, economic and cultural values, must be of an acceptable level.

Why Energise?

Provide expert advice on EPBC Act requirements including the baseline and EIA tools needed to ensure key regulatory requirements under the EPBC Act can be addressed.

Strategy on what is needed to ensure that impacts on threatened species and ecological communities will not be inconsistent with statutory requirements of recovery plans and other conservation planning documents.

Advice on assessment and mitigation of impacts (including indirect impacts) on the values of Australian marine parks such that impacts are not inconsistent with management plans.

Advice on what will be needed to demonstrate impacts will not be inconsistent with Ramsar Management Principles and relevant conservation planning documents for the Ramsar wetland.

Mitigation strategies for protected matters including avoidance and engineering solutions.

Offsets, net biodiversity gain strategy and site plans in order to promote ecological enhancement, commercial fisheries benefits and biodiversity gain with our Partner **Offshore Biotechnologies**.



New environmental reforms will likely require developments to provide net positive outcomes for biodiversity.

Early consideration of Nature Positive in planning can save costs and help secure feasibility and commercial licenses in a highly competitive market.



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Avoid

Early screening, site selection and engineering studies.

Effort directed to avoiding impacts on sensitive environments and protected species.

Engineering and environmental approval interface to deliver viable solutions early in feasibility assessment stages.

Reduce

Undertake environmental impact assessment based on preferred project concept.

Select control measures to reduce impacts to acceptable levels (e.g. spatial and temporal controls, engineering controls, installation measures, administrative controls).

Manage Residual Impacts

What else can be done to reduce impacts further?

Design a monitoring and adaptive management plan to address residual scientific uncertainty.

Offset

Offsets are required for significant residual impacts.

Opportunity to consider potential for net biodiversity gain and nature positive outcomes.

OUTCOMES

Early application of the mitigation hierarchy to reduce impacts on protected matters from the outset.

Smoother, more efficient approvals by demonstrating that project design options and control measures have been adopted to reduce residual impacts.

Directly addresses Merit Criteria for licensing.

A smart, streamlined process for early identification of risk and informed decisions on nature-related priorities, dependencies, and actions throughout the project feasibility and regulatory assessment:

- Intelligent study design and data curation for effective baseline, impact and mitigation assessments
- Selection of appropriate monitoring targets and community values, streamlining regulatory approvals and environmental/nature positive planning.

Community and First Nations collaboration in data collection and nature positive activities, establishing social license and reducing litigation risk.

Strategies to address cumulative impacts, decommissioning scenarios and operational phase environmental reporting.

Early planning for ecosystem enhancement, net biodiversity gain and readiness for nature positive reforms.

ESG performance, pro-active improvement and reporting.

Contribution to nature related financial disclosure:

- Framework for adapting to the global shifts in global financial flows away from nature negative and toward nature positive
- Alignment with national guidelines (in development by National Taskforce) and Global Biodiversity Framework.

