

THE ROLE OF SOCIAL PLANNING AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN NSW COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Introduction

The recognition of social planning as an integral element in planning effective communities has been on the rise in NSW. Social planners are increasingly members of staff in Local Government, and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) is increasingly being adopted as a mechanism for embedding the consideration of social issues in development processes. In many coastal NSW communities, social change has been extensive and rapid, fuelled by sea-changing, aging and the exodus of young people to cities. Local councils are tasked with managing much of the infrastructure and service provision to meet these social needs, understanding and managing local social change and also responsible for regulating development, ensuring this does not conflict with social objectives.

This paper discusses how social planning and SIA can be used to improve social outcomes. The paper presents the findings of a survey to look at the experience of NSW's coastal local governments in adopting these approaches, looks at which Councils have social planners, which require social impact assessment for developments in their jurisdiction, how effective these functions are; and draws lessons from council experiences in these areas.

Background

Social issues faced by coastal councils

Coastal communities around Australia are currently experiencing rapid population growth from internal migration. This phenomenon, typically described as 'sea change' is causing the suburbanization of the Australian Coast as many coastal settlements are converted into low density suburban forms (Smith and Doherty, 2006).

This rapid population and tourism growth is having a significant social impact on the existing coastal communities. Many non metropolitan coastal communities are characterised by high levels of unemployment, lower than average household incomes, and greater levels of socio-economic disadvantage along with higher numbers of seniors than other parts of Australia (Gurran 2005).

The sense of community also suffers as changes to the physical character cause existing residents to experience a loss in their sense of place. Literature also reports tensions between existing residents and new migrants which is exacerbated by socio economic polarization (Gurran and Blakely, 2006). Of great concern is that as coastal communities become more gentrified, increasing property prices force the redevelopment of traditional low cost housing stock including holiday houses and flats and caravan parks, which are often an important source of affordable retirement and crisis accommodation for low income households (Gurran and Blakely, 2006).

The social changes underway in NSW coastal areas present specific challenges for local government in managing the demands of accelerated and extensive aging, increasing inequality, the outmigration of young people, higher than average unemployment, and the provision of services and facilities for both vulnerable and affluent residents and tourists.

Local government's capacity to manage social change

For coastal councils social change can be managed through careful strategic social planning where social and community issues, both existing, predicted and desirable, are identified and through the use of a social plan mitigated or enhanced. In addition, councils can regulate the social impacts of local development through an assessment of the potential social impacts of proposed developments.

Social and Community Plans

Since 1999 Councils have been required to prepare a Social Plan, which since 2002 has been required in accordance with the NSW Department of Local Government's *Social and Community Planning and Report Guidelines (2002)*. The objective of the social/community plan was to describe the local community, summarize the key issues facing it and recommend strategies that Councils and/or other agencies could implement to address the identified needs (Department of Local Government, 2002). These Social Plans were to be prepared in accordance with social justice principles, addressing seven target social groups identified in the guidelines, and were required to be reviewed annually and updated every 5 years. For many Social Planners, the preparation, implementation and management of this social planning document has been the core activity.

The *Local Government Amendment (Planning and Reporting) Act 2009* released on the 1 October 2009 (Division of Local Government, 2009), has changed this requirement for a Social Plan, with local government now requiring a Community Strategic Plan to be developed. This Community Strategic Plan is part of a package of integrated planning and reporting requirements that also include a Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program and Operational Plan and an Annual Report (Division of Local Government, 2010).

The Planning and Reporting Amendment requires the social plan to be integrated into the development of the Community Strategic Plan. Given that this is a recent amendment to the Act, the majority of Councils are still in the process of preparing their Community Strategic Plan. In the meantime, Councils will continue to use their social/community plans to guide their decision making. The Community Strategic Plan identifies the main priorities and aspirations for the future. According to s 402 (3) the Council has to ensure that the plan:

- (a) addresses civic leadership, social, environmental and economic issues in an integrated manner, and
- (b) is based on social justice principles of equity, access, participation and rights, and
- (c) is adequately informed by relevant information relating to civic leadership, social, environmental and economic issues, and
- (d) is developed having due regard to the State government's State Plan and other relevant State and regional plans of the State government.

According to the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework (Division of Local Government, 2010) the Plan must include;

- a community vision statement
- a series of strategic objectives for the community
- strategies for achieving each objective and

- assessment methods for determining whether the objectives are being achieved.

In the past the Social Plan, and now the Community Strategic Plan and its related operational documents, will be the key documents to guide council management of social change, social infrastructure and services.

Assessing social impacts of DAs

Local government's capacity to regulate development can also be used to manage social change. The *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EPA) provides the legislative framework for planning and assessment in NSW. One of the objectives of the Act is to promote the social and economic welfare of the community. This is to be achieved through s79(C) that outlines what the consent authority should consider in the assessment of the development application. Clause 1b requires the consideration of the social and economic impacts.

Despite the legislative requirements for the assessment of social impacts the EPA does not state how this assessment should be carried out. Consequently each individual consent authority has its own method of assessment. The majority of Councils rely on the applicant addressing the potential social impacts in the mandatory Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE). The Council then assesses the development against their Local Environmental Plan and relevant Development Control Plans. The difficulty with having no specific method for assessing the social impacts and only relying on the SEE is that the Council has very little justification for supporting their determination, particularly if the social impacts play an important role. There is also the risk that the social impacts are overlooked.

In order to raise the profile of the importance of social impacts a handful of NSW Councils have instituted a social impact assessment policy requiring applicants for major developments to submit a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) as part of their development application. The definition of SIA accepted by the Planning Institute of Australia in their National Position Statement on social impact assessment is;

Social impact assessment (SIA) refers to the assessment of the social consequences of a proposed decision or action, namely the impacts on affected groups of people and on their way of life, life chances, health, culture and capacity to sustain these. A triple bottom line approach to planning decisions includes social impact assessment in impact assessment processes (Planning Institute Australia, 2009, p. 1).

One of the main objectives in undertaking an SIA is to predict the social impacts on individuals, groups, and communities as a result of changes arising from a development (Summerville, Buys, Germann, and Cuthill, 2006). SIA effectiveness depends on two basic assumptions, the first that the SIA has accurately predicted the social impacts, the second that the consent authority is able to interpret the document and incorporate the information into their determination of the application. Ideally, the information obtained from an SIA is used to develop and implement mechanisms that will mitigate against the identified adverse impacts, and these mitigations become a condition of consent.

Objective

This paper aims to explore the experiences of NSW coastal councils in using social planning and social impact assessment as tools to manage social change and enhance social outcomes in their communities, and to draw lessons from this experience.

Methodology

This study has been undertaken based primarily on the responses obtained from participating NSW coastal councils with regard to their experience with social planning and social impact assessment. This feedback has been supplemented with literature and legislative review relevant to the project.

Literature Review

A review of existing literature and legislation relating to social planning and social impact assessment within Australia was undertaken. The intent of the literature review was to ascertain the degree of research undertaken in this subject area, understand the legal planning requirements by which local Councils must comply, as well as provide a theoretical framework in which our research could be grounded. A scan of current literature with regard to social change in coastal NSW was also undertaken.

Survey Tool Development

A brief questionnaire was developed which focused on the social planning experiences and practices of local Councils. Key areas explored in the survey included:

- Social planning roles in council
- Benefits of social planning (observed and expected)
- SIA policies and assessing social impacts
- Lessons learned in SIA review and social planning

Following the finalization of the survey content, the questionnaire was placed in an online format using 'Survey Monkey', a web based survey tool. The complete questionnaire is attached as Annex 1.

Survey Participant Recruitment

A list of Councils was reviewed, with 21 meeting the research requirements of a) being located on the coast of NSW; and b) not being classed as a metropolitan council. Randwick, Newcastle and Wollongong City Councils were also selected for inclusion in this study due to their adoption of social planning and/or SIA policies and guidelines. The table below lists the 24 NSW local Councils selected for inclusion in our research.

Table 1 : Councils Invited to Undertake Survey

Ballina Shire Council	Lake Macquarie City Council
Bega Valle Shire Council	Nambucca Shire Council

Bellingen Shire Council	Newcastle City Council
Byron Shire Council	Port Macquarie Hastings Council
Clarence Valley Council	Port Stephens Council
Coffs Harbour City Council	Randwick City Council
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Richmond Valley Council
Gosford City Council	Shellharbour City Council
Great Lakes Council	Shoalhaven City Council
Greater Taree City Council	Tweed Shire Council
Kempsey Shire Council	Wollongong
Kiama Municipal Council	Wyong Shire Council

Following identification of potential participants, the research team attempted to make contact with the person responsible for social or community planning at each respective council (multiple times as required), to outline the aims of the research and invite them to participate in the online questionnaire. Upon completion of the phone calls, emails containing a link to the online survey were sent to representatives at each of the 24 Councils.

Survey Collection and Analysis

A period of four weeks during September and October 2010 was allowed for Council representatives to complete the survey (with the long period to accommodate school and public holidays). One week prior to the collection period ending, a reminder email was circulated to those who had failed to respond, in an attempt to increase the response rate. At the end of the collection period responses were received from 12 Councils (listed below), representing a response rate of 50%. The map following shows those councils approached, and those who responded to the invitation to participate.

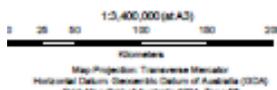
Table 2 : Councils Which Undertook the Survey

Byron Shire Council	Lake Macquarie City Council
Clarence Valley Council	Port Macquarie Hastings Council
Eurobodalla Shire Council	Randwick City Council
Gosford City Council	Shellharbour City Council
Great Lakes Council	Shoalhaven City Council
Kiama Municipal Council	Tweed Shire Council



Legend

- NSW Coastal Councils
- Councils Responded
- Councils Approached



Job Number 21-12345
 Revision A
 Date 28 OCT 2010

NSW Coastal Councils

Figure 1

G:\Clients\21-12345\21-12345-01\GIS\MapDocs\NSWCoastalCouncils_2010_10_28.mxd Level 15, 133 Castlereagh Street Sydney NSW 2000 T 61 2 9239 7100 F 61 2 9239 7199 E sydney@ghd.com.au W www.ghd.com.au
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The final stage of research involved a qualitative analysis of the survey data to effectively case study the experience of each council with regard to social planning and social impact assessment and draw out key lessons among respondent's social planning practices and experiences.

Results

Who is undertaking Social Planning?

Of the 12 Councils which responded to the study, nine advised that they currently had a social planner on staff. Six of the councils advised that the Social Planner role in their council had been in existence for over 11 years, one for less than a year, and two between 1 and 5 years.

These social planners reside in diverse areas of operation across council.

Table 3 : Institutional location of Social Planners

Council Department	Number of Respondents
Community Services	2
Strategic or Integrated Planning	2
Community Planning and Development	3
Social and Cultural Planning	1

In addition, one of the councils advised that they no longer employ a Social Planner, with the previous Social Planner now in a revised role as the Community Strategic Planner, responsible for developing the Community Strategic Plan. One other NSW coastal Council who declined to complete the survey also indicated that with no further requirement to prepare a Social Plan, that the role for Social Planners in their council was now defunct.

The two remaining respondent councils advised that social planning tasks were undertaken by either the Senior Planner or Community Services Coordinator.

What are the benefits of having a Social Planner?

Councils with Social Planners on staff identified several areas and issues which were particularly enhanced by the inputs of social planners, these can largely be considered;

- Ensuring the inclusion of social considerations and **social justice principles** in council strategic and operational planning processes
- Advice on **strategic and development assessment**
- Addressing **social planning issues such as housing affordability** and community consultation

- **Enhancing awareness and action on social issues** across council and the community
- Promotes **linkages between council departments** and between council and the community
- Use consultation and demographic data to identify and respond to **social development opportunities**.
- In house skills save money, **build and retain organizational capacity**, are available to expand capability within the organization and can review SIA.

Respondents also identified that the key areas and issues which benefitted from the functioning of the social planner were;

- Community engagement and community planning
- Strategic approaches to social issues and social development
- Social review of development assessments.
- Attention to specific issues such as cultural/ arts development, housing affordability, crime prevention and safety, social inclusion, access and equity
- Provision of community facilities

Of those Councils with no social planner on staff, all respondents considered the position desirable to their council, citing the consideration of issues such as equity issues (e.g affordable housing versus holiday lettings), social impact assessment, employment opportunities, access and diversity policies being the most relevant.

How is Social Impact Assessment considered in coastal NSW?

Seven of the councils who completed the survey have SIA guidelines or an SIA policy. In addition, Newcastle City Council also has an SIA Policy which was adopted in 1999. As can be seen from the list below, no other NSW coastal councils have SIA policies.

Table 3 : NSW Coastal Councils with SIA Policies

Councils Approached / Responded	SIA Policy*
Ballina Shire Council	No
Bega Valle Shire Council	No
Bellingen Shire Council	No
Byron Shire Council	Yes 2009/10
Clarence Valley Council	No
Coffs Harbour City Council	No
Eurobodalla Shire Council	No
Gosford City Council	No
Great Lakes Council	No
Greater Taree City Council	No
Kempsey Shire Council	No

Kiama Municipal Council	Yes
Lake Macquarie City Council	Yes
Nambucca Shire Council	No
Newcastle City Council	Yes 1999
Port Macquarie Hastings Council	Yes
Port Stephens Council	No
Randwick City Council	Yes pre 2008
Richmond Valley Council	No
Shellharbour City Council	Yes
Shoalhaven City Council	No
Tweed Shire Council	Yes pre 2000
Wollongong	No
Wyong Shire Council	No

* Information for Councils who didn't respond to the survey has been drawn from Lander (2010).

Byron Shire indicated they have processed less than 5 SIAs, Tweed Shire between 21 and 30, and Lake Macquarie City in excess of 30 SIAs. Only three councils indicated that they encourage proponents to meet with Council before submitting an SIA or DA to best understand Councils expectations and to advise proponents. In addition, although Newcastle City's SIA policy requests proponents to consult with Council before preparing the SIA and the DA, the lack of a social planner on Council staff has resulted in an effectively benign policy with no council staff to implement the requirements of the policy.

What have the benefits of SIA policies been?

Two councils responded that they have seen no benefits, one because the policy had only recently been adopted, and the other because they felt SIA was subjective, that the SIAs always conclude with the economic benefits of projects outweighing the negative social impacts, and that council does not have adequate expertise to critically assess SIAs. Interestingly, this last comment was from a council who has had a social planner on staff for over a decade.

Three other Councils responded that the benefits of implementing the SIA policy had been positive, indicating:

- Adopting the SIA promotes community harmony, and that generally proponents are happy to discuss and amend proposals to avoid negative social impacts,
- Better social outcomes were possible as council is able to make more informed decisions,
- SIAs increased proponent social accountability, and enabled council to make social mitigations a condition of development consent.

Lessons Learned in SIA

Councils advised that the lessons they had learnt through using SIA for reviewing the social impacts of DAs were;

- The need for greater in-house, targeted expertise to review SIAs
- SIA needs to be implemented through the DA process, and liaison with DA assessors is important to this
- Liaison with DA assessors is important but this should be supported by a formal structure to ensure social planners assess DAs and rezonings
- Need to alert applicants to SIA requirements at a pre-DA meeting
- SIA guidelines should be promoted to planning and customer service staff – for alerting applicants
- Social planners assessing DAs needs to be practical and be seen to be credible and legitimate

Councils with SIA policies have generally found the response of applicants to be positive, however they note that while many understand that the community is likely to be more accepting of their proposal if they have promoted positive social outcomes, some are concerned at the extra cost of assessing and addressing social impacts while others are unable to see the relevance to their proposals.

The five respondent councils who do not have SIA policies or guidelines responded that they expected they would be useful for council to;

- Define triggers for SIA
- Provide a consistent response from council to development applications, potentially removing the subjectivity of SIA requirements.
- Guide councils in how to apply and use SIA in DA review

Each of these councils also considered that their current DA process provided some opportunity for consideration of social impacts.

Discussion

The surveys completed by staff from NSW coastal councils were brief, and in some cases incomplete, however the responses were nonetheless insightful in various fields, both directly in response to the focus questions, and more generally in regard to the role and nature of social planning.

Council staff responses have shed light in regard to:

- Benefits of social planners in local government
- Lessons learned in adopting SIA in DA processes

The study also revealed a lack of clarity or consensus about what social planning is, and what its role and place in local government is now and in the near future. These findings are elaborated below.

Beneficial roles of social planners in local government

Survey respondents identified that the key benefits to council and the community of having a social planner on staff related to the incorporation of social justice principles in both strategic and operational aspects of council, and in enhancing linkages, both within council, and between the council and the community. These responses indicate the importance of the cross-functional role of the social planner, working within and across council departments, in an effective role. To a degree this aspect of social planning is reflected in the diversity of departments which host social planners, including community services, social planning and strategic planning. Notably social planners were not employed within the development or statutory planning departments in councils which review DAs.

Respondents indicated social planners were able to identify and respond to key social issues, develop social planning skills in house, and build awareness and capacity for social planning with other members of staff. Even councils who had no social planner on staff cited various specific social issues around social justice principles which would benefit from social planning. Again, many of these benefits are derived from a position which is tasked with broad organizational responsibilities across departments.

Lessons learned in adopting SIA in DA processes

A key issue across the field of impact assessment is the independence or subjectivity of assessments which are either completed, or commissioned by project proponents. In this arena, the onus then largely lies with the experience and understanding of the regulator to assess the credibility of assessments put before them and to review how complete and appropriate they are.

Councils identified three issues in this step, the first being the awareness and understanding of any need for an SIA, the second being a process whereby the social planner was systematically consulted to review DAs, and the third being the capacity of the social planner to effectively assess the DAs.

Several councils advised and others have also suggested (Landers 2010) that any SIA policy needs to be built into the DA process, so that both Council and proponents are aware of the triggers for, and requirements of an SIA. Landers (2010) suggested that inclusion of any SIA policy into a DCP was the most appropriate statutory measure to ensure this process. Regardless, raising awareness of council staff in regard to any SIA requirements is also important, particularly amongst planners and customer service staff.

If the SIA requirements are contained within a DCP, this may also outline the process for review of the SIA in Council. Some respondents outlined how important the pre-DA meeting with proponents is in order to discuss social issues up-front, outline expectations and provide advice and support in preparing the SIA from the outset. Such a process should be elucidated as an internal council process to ensure that the social planner, or other relevant staff can provide initial input for proponents and undertake a review of SIAs or DAs that may involve significant social impact. Respondents highlighted how critical the development of a working relationship is between the social planner and the planners undertaking DA review, but also emphasized the need for this process to be formalized. A pertinent response from one respondent was the importance of the legitimacy and credibility of the social planner in the eyes of their council colleagues in being able to credibly review SIAs and provide practical responses.

Even after a proponent has prepared an SIA, and the council process provided it to the social planner for review, the most important element becomes the capacity of the social planner to undertake effective review, to identify any subjectivity or omissions, to assess the adequacy of impact assessment and the validity and practicality of mitigations and to make appropriate recommendations.

Responses indicated that there is a need for more targeted expertise within council in regard to reviewing SIAs. Councils indicated that for the SIA to provide the tool for identifying and making appropriate mitigations conditions of consent, the social planner is more likely to have to identify these opportunities from the data presented in the SIA, and for this, a high level of understanding of SIA and the developments they are prepared in regard to is required. The difficulty for social planners is in finding appropriate training to enhance their skills and experience.

What is Social Planning and Who are Social Planners?

The field of social planning is broad, and poorly defined. The membership requirements for the Social Planning Chapter of the Planning Institute of Australia provides a good illustration of how diverse and extensive the fields of social planning are, with membership to the chapter requiring social planners to have experience in;

“at least three of the core competencies of:

- * Access and Mobility * Community Development * Cultural Heritage
- * Housing * Cultural Planning and Development * Economic Development,
- Economic Planning and Employment * Human Services Planning * Recreation
- planning * Health and Safety * Participation * Community Facilities Planning
- * Sense of Place and Identity * Social Impact Assessment * Social Inclusion”

(Planning Institute of Australia,

<http://www.planning.org.au/membershipinformation/chapter-membership-requirements#social-planning>)

In the past, for the social planner to develop and implement the Social Plan, they would be working in all of these domains, with specialist staff from across council. This broad responsibility brought with it the benefits of a comprehensive overview of social needs, policies and actions in council, and gave the social planner the opportunity to affect both policy, process and operations. With the replacement of the Social Plan with the Strategic Community Plan, in some councils it appears the role of the social planner will be lost, and perhaps newly created roles such as a Community Strategic planner may have a different relationship to social policy, process and operation.

Many staff within a given council will have experience in one or a number of the competency areas listed by the Planing Institute of Australia, with human services, community facilities, participation and recreations planning being amongst the most common. So if these skills already exist, how different is a social planner? Many councils will already have many of the skills in house for a social planner, but their existing roles may not allow them to undertake the work, (primarily inter-departmental and crossing strategy, policy, processes and operations) that councils have identified as the primary benefits of having a social planner on staff. Alternatively, responses

from one council indicated that within the one organisation staff roles and titles were not clearly understood, and that social planning may well be being undertaken by existing staff under another title. Perhaps within Council there is a potential to develop social planning capacity through rotation of key social staff within other social planning sectors of council, and for social planning to become a committee or co-managed role.

With relatively few social planners in the industry, it is no surprise that social planners in council see a large need for capacity development, with such a broad spectrum of competencies to be expected. As mentioned above, there is a large potential for capacity development in several areas within councils (particularly in regard to community services, community facilities and participation), however additionally, a rich source of experience may be drawn from social planners and SIA experience from other councils within NSW. In addition to the NSW coastal councils with SIA policies, other key councils such as Holroyd in Sydney may provide an opportunity for sharing and exchange of experience in social planning, and particularly SIA review. Establishing networks of social planners in local government may be a valuable tool for continuing these exchanges of information and ideas. While not sharing the same statutory structure, for many councils, experience across the borders in Victoria and Queensland may also be accessible and highly relevant.

As noted in Lander (2010), there are no noted tertiary qualifications in social planning in NSW, and thus formal qualifications and training opportunities are often brief and relate to a single competency. The NSW government also provides little in the way of guidelines or experience, with (until 2009), no social planning staff in the Department of Planning.

Conclusion

Respondents from twelve NSW coastal councils have indicated that their communities have benefited or would be expected to benefit from the inclusion of a social planner on council staff. The primary benefit of the social planning role is the inclusion of social justice principles (particularly equality and access) at both the strategic policy, process and operational levels, and the availability of a staff member to identify and act on key social issues.

Respondents indicated that SIA provided an opportunity to improve the social outcomes of development proposals and highlighted that with enhanced processes to ensure appropriate social review of proposals was undertaken, together with a strengthened capacity of social reviewers, that the benefits from SIA in the future would be expected to improve.

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Appendix 1
NSW Coastal Councils Survey Form

Respondent Information

1. Council Name

2. Respondent Name

3. Would you like to receive a copy of the results of the survey?

Yes

No

If Yes, please provide a contact email address

4. Respondent Position

5. How long have you held this position?

Less than 1 year

1 to 5 years

6 to 10 years

11 to 15 years

More than 15 years

6. Does Council have Social Planner(s) on staff?

Yes

No (Proceed to Q.13)

7. Which Department of Council is the Social Planner in?

8. How long has Council employed a Social Planner?

Less than 1 year

1 to 5 years

6 to 10 years

11 to 15 years

More than 15 years

9. Is the role...?

Part time

Full time

10. Name of Social Planner

11. What do you believe are the key benefits of having Social Planner(s) on staff?

12. What are the key areas/issues in your LGA that benefit from targeted social planning?

Social Planning

13. Who undertakes social planning roles?

(Eg: Write and review Social Plan, assess DAs from a social perspective, undertake community facilities planning etc)

External consultants

Council staff

Council staff position(s) (please specify)

	5
	6

14. Does Council believe a Social Planner is needed or would bring value?

Yes

No (Skip to Question 5)

15. In what areas or in regard to which issues?

	5
	6

16. What prevents Council having a Social Planner?

	5
	6

17. What social studies does Council undertake?

- Community Attitude Survey
- Social Infrastructure Studies
- Community Needs Assessment
- Social Services Studies
- Other (please specify)

18. Does Council have a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) policy or guidelines?

Yes

No (Proceed to Q.26)

19. When did Council adopt the SIA policy/guidelines to guide project applicants?

- Not yet adopted
- 2009 - 2010
- 2005 - 2008
- 2000 - 2004
- Before 2000
- Unsure

20. How many SIAs have been prepared under this policy?

- 0 to 5
- 6 to 10
- 11 to 20
- 21 to 30
- More than 30

21. Does Council go over the requirements for an SIA with the proponent in advance of DA lodgment?

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes (please explain)

22. Has SIA been integrated into the DA process?

- No
- Yes

For what types of Projects?

23. Have you observed any benefits in terms of social outcomes as a result of social impacts being considered?

No

Yes

Please elaborate

5

6

24. Are there any lessons learned (both positive and negative) from SIA in your Council?

No

Yes

Please elaborate

5

6

25. What has been your experience of proponent responses to Council requiring SIA?

Mostly positive

Positive and negative

Mostly negative

Please elaborate

5

6

26. Do you think an SIA policy would be useful?

Yes

No

Why/Why not?

5

6

27. Does Council have a stance on the adoption (or not) of an SIA policy?

In favour of adopting an SIA policy

In favour of adopting an SIA policy but face barriers

Against adopting an SIA policy

No Council stance

Unsure

Please elaborate

5

6

28. Does the DA process consider social impacts?

Yes

No

Please elaborate (if Yes, how? If No, why not?)

5

6