4. Holistic Impact Assessment – A View from the West

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The practice of impact assessment (and especially EIA) has long been accused of being reductionist and non-strategic in nature. Recent changes to EIA policy materials in Western Australia include provision for Holistic Impact Assessment to be undertaken by proponents in their environmental review documents and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) itself in its assessment of proposals. The holistic impact assessment concept is an important reimagining of EIA that (theoretically at least) emulates the underpinning sustainable development intentions of the process and should promote a more strategic approach to EIA. This presentation will outline the state of play in WA around this concept and prompt discussion from delegates regarding comparable practice elsewhere in Australia and New Zealand.