

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW JOURNAL

Volume 21, Number 4

December 2016

The New South Wales Joint Expert Report Policy – reflections of an SIA practitioner – Alison Ziller

While concerns about the likely effects of developments on human welfare are the core business of land-use planning, social impact assessments (SIAs) – the formal documentation of these inquiries – are less consistently used. SIAs are more likely to be prepared by a proponent than a consent authority, except when a refusal is appealed in court. The New South Wales Land and Environment Court's Joint Expert Report Policy imposes a structure on this somewhat lopsided practice environment. This article explores some of the consequences of that policy on SIA expert witness reports and makes recommendations to improve the process. 149

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