



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS LTD
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Environmental Impact Assessments Ltd (EIA Ltd)

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Newsletter

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS LTD

Hi my name is Brett Stansfield of EIA Ltd which is an environmental consultancy specialising in:

- freshwater quality
- data analysis
- environmental impact assessments
- resource consent advice
- community science engagement

We have 5 staff who have extensive experience in environmental data analysis and technical report writing.

If your business needs:

- assistance with obtaining a resource consent
- you are interested in training on water quality
- analysis of environmental data,

Give me a call on (021) 1104 814 or email brett@eia.net.nz to discuss your needs.

I look forward to working with you in the future.



Marsh Bedstraw – a common weed that grows in wetlands



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

WETLAND DELINEATIONS

We have been very busy undertaking wetland delineation work in the Auckland and Waikato Regions. The wetland delineation method entails vegetation surveying and hydric soil testing of small depressions of land that could key out as a wetland. Under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management this method is specified where there is doubt about the environmental classification of a wet area on land.

The cover page shows a wetland weed often found in some ecosystems called marsh bedstraw which belongs to the Galium genus meaning “milk”, the leaves having been used to curdle milk once upon a time.

LABORATORY TESTING

Our lab team has now grown to 5 staff to keep pace with our increasing demand for aquatic macroinvertebrate taxonomic analysis. Welcome to Chloe Collins and Robert Lewis who recently joined us this year!

UNIQUE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS

We recently undertook an assessment of ecological effects survey for a proposed house development in the Waitakere ranges. In this instance the house is being built upon poles to minimise disturbance to the forest ecosystem. The site (top left) is located within regenerating indigenous forest. It will certainly be an engineering challenge. Our ecological reporting is a necessary requirement for obtaining a resource consent as the site is within a Sensitive Ecological Area of Auckland.

The landowners are very keen to get involved with pest plant and animal control to ensure their foot print is minimised according to the ecological management plan we have provided.

NITRATES IN GROUNDWATER

We are currently participating in a Nitrate attenuation study. We are interested to know how long it takes for nitrates in a water sample to reduce via denitrification. The current results suggest that nitrate concentrations remain fairly stable even after a period of 2 weeks!

PEST FISH MONITORING

Koi and Grass carp are present in the Chelsea Reservoirs. Their feeding creates a lot of disturbance because they are actively pulling at aquatic weeds to consume and in the process make the water very cloudy.

WAIRARAPA WATER RACE SCHEME

We are currently compiling a technical report on the ecological values of the Taratahi and Carrington water race schemes located within the Carterton District. Our research shows that ecosystem function of the water race is on a par with a pastoral stream, while biodiversity values can be excellent owing to their ecological connectivity to regionally significant wetlands within their network (above Waingawa Swamp wetland).

Our monitoring has included macroinvertebrate, fish and eDNA sampling to determine overall biodiversity value. Our research suggests that the water races are valuable ecosystems that also support highly valued wetlands with many critically endangered species. To cut off water supply to the races would be detrimental to the biodiversity of the wider Wellington Region.