

- Ecotoxicity
- Human toxicity
- Noise pollution
- Visual impact
- **Development assessments** are used by engineers to use as a decision-making tool whilst designing or implementing a project
 - Development assessments for major developments around NSW can be publicly accessed
- An **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** is a legal document required for a development proceed which outlines actions which may significantly harm the quality of the environment, used as a decision-making tool
- A set of requirements for all EIS's is known as **Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)**, which has two categories:
 - General Standard SEARs
 - Key Issue Standard SEARs
- The General Standard SEARs provide requirements for:
 - Process of writing an EIS
 - Structure and content for an EIS
 - Process of consulting and undertaking assessment for the EIS
- The Key Issue Standard SEARs provide requirements for:
 - Technical issues that comprehensively cover the majority of projects
 - Some of these issues may or may not be relevant to the project
- An **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** involves assessing the potential impact of a proposed development
 - The EIA is a component of the EIS
 - The assessment encourages the decision maker to reduce harm if it is impossible to completely avoid harm
- The three tools typically used to conduct an EIA include:
 - **Life Cycle Analysis (LCA)**
 - **Carbon Footprint Analysis**
 - **Material Flow Analysis (MFA)**
- The Life Cycle Analysis includes examining the entire life environmental performance of a project or activity
- **Life cycle thinking** is an approach that involves taking into consideration the economic, environmental and societal impacts of a development across its entire lifespan
- A **Carbon footprint analysis** is simply an LCA in which global warming is the only impact category
- The Carbon footprint analysis involves measuring total greenhouse gas emissions directly and indirectly as a consequence of the project
- The CFA has **three scopes of emissions**:
 - Scope 1: Direct emissions resulting from activities under the control of the organization
 - Scope 2: Indirect emissions resulting from heat or power used by the organization
 - Scope 3: Indirect emissions resulting from sources not controlled by the manufacturing organization

- They are appointed for **life**, which improves their ability to make tricky and often unpopular decisions without having a concern for job security
- Judges are able to assess decisions made by governments
- Judges are not to be influenced by other politicians or people
- In a democracy, no individual is above or beneath the law
 - **Corruption** is a severe offence in the public office

FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS

- Some of the basic international human rights include:
 - Freedom of speech
 - Freedom of religion
 - Freedom to choose political associations
 - Freedom to choose your friends
- Citizens of Australia in particular are within their rights to:
 - Form NGO's such as environmental groups
 - Make submissions to members of Parliament and officials
 - Take part in environmental decision making
 - Protest peacefully when they disagree with political decisions
 - Ask the courts to review the decisions of the government
- These freedoms are also inherited from British legal ancestry
- An example of basic human rights is the **Brown v Tasmania** case:
 - In 2014, Tasmania passed a law to stop protesters from entering forest areas to protest about logging operations
 - In 2017, Bob Brown influenced a High Court decision that claimed that this law was unconstitutional because it was contrary to fundamental human rights

THE COURT SYSTEM

- In Australia, the courts can be classified as superior or inferior
- An **inferior court** includes local (magistrate) and district courts that deal with minor crime and civil disputes
- **Superior courts** include the Supreme Court, Appeal Court and then the High Court (whose decision is final)
- **Precedent** is established by superior courts and all judgements are recorded in law reports; this creates certainty in the law by setting a uniform standard based on previous rulings
 - Law based on precedent is known as **common law**
- Legislation has the ability to overrule any judicial decision by changing the law
- When it comes to approving an EIS, the **onus legally is on the decision-maker** to make a completely informed and unbiased ruling
- The Environmental Court of NSW (LEC) is a superior court:
 - This court is committed to making rulings that improve sustainable development
 - It hears appeals from lower courts regarding environmental crime
 - It hears prosecutions about higher environmental crimes
 - The court enforces breaches of environmental laws via civil and criminal remedies