



WELCOME to the Simmat & Associates Newsletter!

Team News

Simmat & Associates are pleased to welcome two new team members—Management Consultants Janet Xiao and Nick Ballard.

5 minutes with **Janet Xiao**.....

What are your areas of expertise within your role?

Environmental legislation in Australia, in particular the regulatory requirements for environmental assessments as required under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and The EPBC Act 1999. Also, regulatory requirements in the construction industry, in particular the POEO Act 1997.

Qualifications?

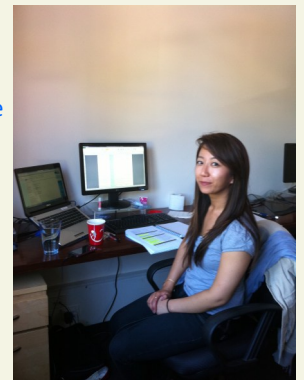
I'm currently studying Masters in Environmental Science and Law at the University of Sydney (M. ESL). The post graduate program provides comprehensive knowledge of the laws and policies relating to the environment and a generalised understanding of the science that underpins them. My other qualifications include—Bachelor of Science, Environmental science Major; Masters Environmental science and law; and Environmental Lead Auditor ISO 14001:2004.

Interests outside of work?

My hobbies include socialising & reading. I'm currently reading Dick Smith's Population Crisis.

Projects you are currently working on...?

I have just finished working on Environmental Clearance Certificates for Reed Constructions, including updates on their Construction Environmental Management Plans and Environmental Management Sub Plans as a requirement for government approval prior to works commencing. I'm currently working on document reviews for Quality, Safety and Environmental audits of companies seeking certification against the Standards ISO 9001:2008, AS/NZS 4801:2001 and ISO 14001:2004.



Harmonisation of Environmental Regulations Across Jurisdictions

During the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting on the 19th August 2011, preliminary discussions were held on the topic of streamlining environmental legislation between jurisdictions. This national harmonisation of legislation would ensure a greater coverage of environmental issues and discussions across borders and assist in developing universal goals and objectives for Australia's future green regulatory requirements.

As the outcome of the meeting illustrates, the "...Ministers consider that national reforms are needed to integrate better State, Territory and Commonwealth regulatory arrangements for environmental protection." However, merging these regulatory requirements of each independent state and territory would warrant for major environmental reform changes and impact greatly on many industries.

A working group of senior officials will determine the details and options of this regulatory reform and present this to the board by the end of 2011 and for approval by the COAG by 2012 and will be part of the next tranche of the Seamless National Economy agenda.

See www.coag.gov.au for more details.

Contact Details:

Do you have questions? Want answers!
Or want to put in an article in our newsletter?

Simmat & Associates Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 461 Freshwater NSW 1640
admin@simmat.com.au | ph.(02) 9451 2211

National OHS Harmonisation - 15 Codes of Practice Published

Safe Work Australia moved a step closer to full implementation of the country's new work safety and health legislation by releasing 15 model Codes of Practice on September 26 for comments. Comments are due on six of them by November 18 and on the remaining nine by December 16.

"There are a range of draft Codes of Practice available for comment. These include topics such as first aid and preventing and responding to workplace bullying. Specific industries like construction, excavation, and demolition work are also covered in these draft Codes of Practice," said Tom Phillips, Safe Work Australia's chairman. "The new model work health and safety laws ensure organisations can comply with one set of laws regardless of the number of states or territories in which they operate. This will ease the burden on business owners operating across the country. The public comment period is a good opportunity for businesses, industry, workers, and the wider community to have their say about work health and safety in Australia." You can visit the [Safe Work Australia website](#) to have your say.

The draft model codes are:

- First Aid in the Workplace;
- Managing Risks in Construction Work;
- Preventing Falls in Housing Construction;
- Managing Electrical Risks at the Workplace;
- Managing Risks of Hazardous Chemicals;
- Managing Risks of Plant in the Workplace;
- Safe Design of Building and Structures;
- Excavation Work;
- Demolition Work;
- Spray Painting and Powder Coating;
- Abrasive Blasting;
- Welding and Allied Processes;
- Safe Access in Tree Trimming and Arboriculture;
- Preventing and Managing Fatigue in the Workplace; and
- Preventing and Responding to Workplace Bullying.



Australia is now less than six months away from the introduction of the nationally consistent health and safety laws and new model codes of practice. The aim is to improve work health and safety for all Australians but what will the impact be for your business? Simmat & Associates can help you prepare for the changes and implementation of the new laws. We will also be running seminars on the implementation of the new national WH&S laws in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. Dates for the Sydney sessions have been announced—

Date: Wednesday, 16th November 2011

Time: 8am—12pm or 1pm—5pm

Location: The Kirribilli Club, Kirribilli

Cost: \$395 + GST

Register your interest in these seminars by [emailing us](#) or calling (02) 9451 2211.

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Coalition to Abolish Green Energy Funds

The Coalition will stop federal funding for clean energy commitments as well as abolish the carbon price if it wins government.*

Opposition finance spokesman Andrew Robb labeled the planned Clean Energy Finance Corporation a 'reckless slush fund'. 'This will be a referendum, the next election, on the carbon tax and all of the associated reckless actions that this government has put in place including this \$10 billion slush fund,' he told ABC Radio. The corporation would only 'fund projects that the private sector won't touch with a barge pole'.

The coalition would not back out of any contracts the corporation had already signed, but Mr Robb expected it would not be set up for at least another year and so would not have been running for long by the time of the next election, due in late 2013.

But Prime Minister Julia Gillard says the coalition is just 'huffing and puffing' with its claims of repealing the carbon price and associated schemes. 'I did note yesterday that (the opposition's) climate change spokesperson is now saying if they were ever elected to government in this country, they'd have a white paper,' she told ABC Radio in Wollongong. 'That is code for they'd have an expert study to help them climb down from all the false promises they're now making about repeal to the Australian community.'

Australian Greens leader Bob Brown said if the opposition stymied energy investment there could be 'a shortage of energy' as well as ramped up energy prices. Ms Gillard later told reporters in Wollongong that Mr Abbott would walk away from his 'blood oath promises' to repeal the carbon pricing legislation.

'Underneath all of this carry-on, all of this feverish campaigning, Mr Abbott is on the record supporting a price on carbon,' she said.

'His so-called promises to repeal it are absolutely hollow.'

* Source—Sydney Morning Herald

Training and Development

Environmental Management Fundamentals

When: [Register your interest for upcoming dates](#)

Where: Frenchs Forest

What: This course covers basic terms, explanations, and clarity on some of the fundamental environmental management issues that we are now exposed to in business on a daily basis.

Walk away from this course with a good level of introductory exposure to cutting through the 'industry green wash', and with some clear objectives to exploring your environmental management needs in your own organisation.

Price: \$495 per person

Quality Management Systems Course

When: [Register your interest for upcoming dates](#)

Where: Frenchs Forest

What: This course is your opportunity to get a basic or better understanding of Quality Management Systems. Our trainers will work with each participant in the group to answer questions about your specific management system and your industry while providing an insight into the requirements of ISO 9001.

Price: \$495 per person

Legal Compliance Register

Our legal compliance register delivers relevant information on a range of applicable Legislation, Acts, Regulations and Codes of Practice saving you from having to trawl thousands of webpage's for the ones that are relevant to the industry.

Benefits:

- Quarterly updates of State and Commonwealth Legislation, Acts, Regulations and Codes of Practice;
- Summaries of how a requirement may apply on-site;
- Cost effective information tailored to the construction industry;
- Easy Ready Reference;
- Valuable content for your toolbox, and project meetings;
- Get the facts without the hassle;
- Requests for additional reviews included in the next issue; and
- Save time reviewing information.

[Contact us for further information on our legal compliance register](#)

LET US KNOW WHAT TRAINING YOU NEED AND WE CAN ORGANISE A COURSE AROUND YOU

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