



Best Practice Impact Assessment Guidelines

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- Jonas Bengtsson and James Logie (Edge Environment)
- Nigel Howard (Clarity Environment)
- Maartje Sevenster (Sevenster Consulting)
- Joe Lane (UQ)
- Rob Rouwette (Start2See)

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GoToWebinar



Aim of today's session



- Introduce the updated “Best Practice Guide to Impact Assessment in Australia”
 - Advance notice to ALCAS members
 - Report activities of Impact Assessment Committee

Contributors



		Impact area
Tim Grant	Life Cycle Strategies	Toxicity, Resource use, Acidification
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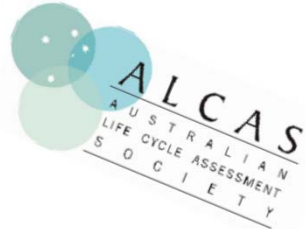
Content

- Background
- Context
- Aim of the Guide
- Content
- Scope
 - mid-point indicators
 - impact categories
- Guiding principles for nominating best practice
- Example section
- Characterisation factors
- Where to from here

Background



- Original guide (from 2008)
- Being updated by ALCAS Impact Assessment C'tee
- Drivers
 - a key role for ALCAS
 - the science - keeping up to date
 - the market – stakeholders



**Best Practice Guide to
Life Cycle Impact Assessment
in Australia**
ALCAS Impact Assessment Committee

Revision: Version 4
(Draft 7 10/12/2014)



Context



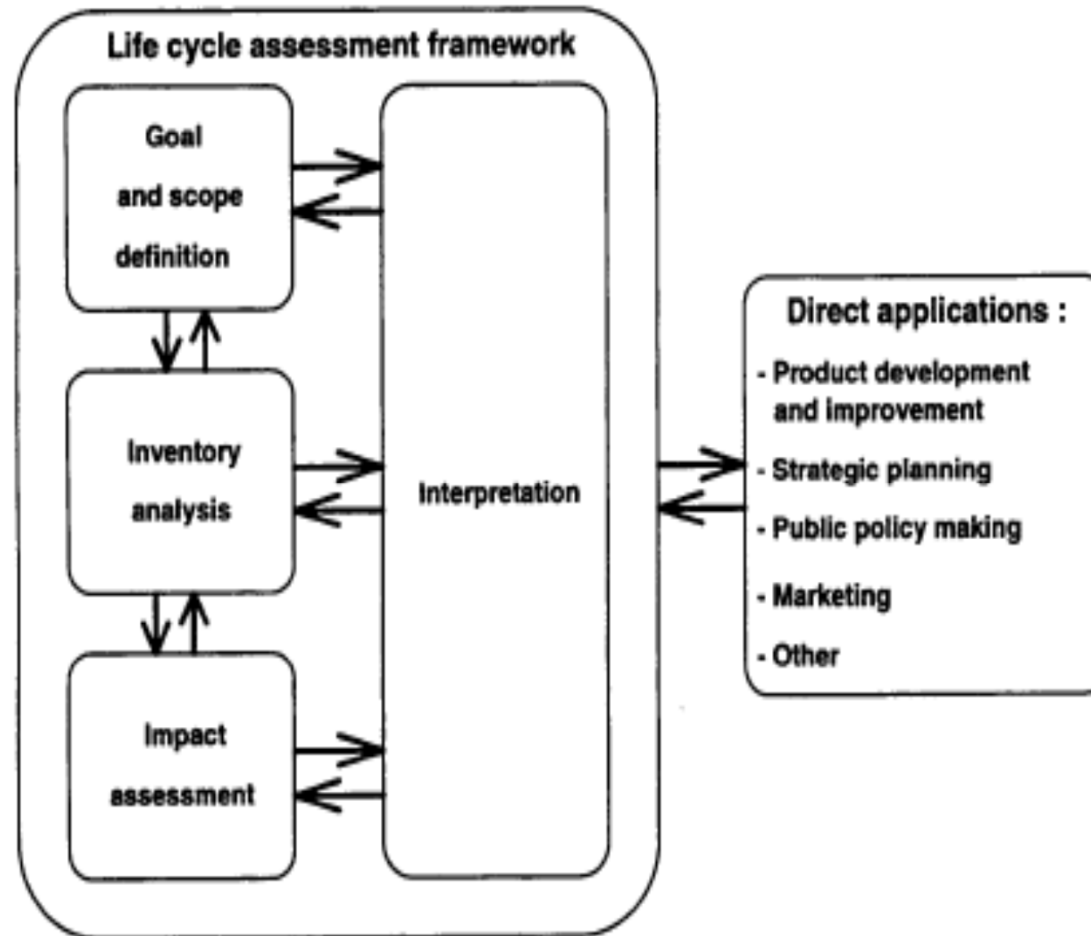
- Emerging markets for LCA-based information requiring guidance on impact assessment
- International trends towards harmonisation and best practice
 - UNEP / SETAC Life Cycle Initiative
 - European Commission's Joint Research Council (EC-JCR) Life Cycle Impact initiative
- Regionalisation
- Australian initiatives
 - Australian Life Cycle Inventory (AusLCI) database
 - Australasian EPD Programme

Aim of the Guide

- Provide a critique of available LCIA methods leading to guidance on best practice for LCAs undertaken in Australia, with the aim of enabling more informed choice of methods for users of LCA in Australia
- Guides the selection of appropriate methods / characterisation factors
- Gives direction to the selection of indicators to include in a study

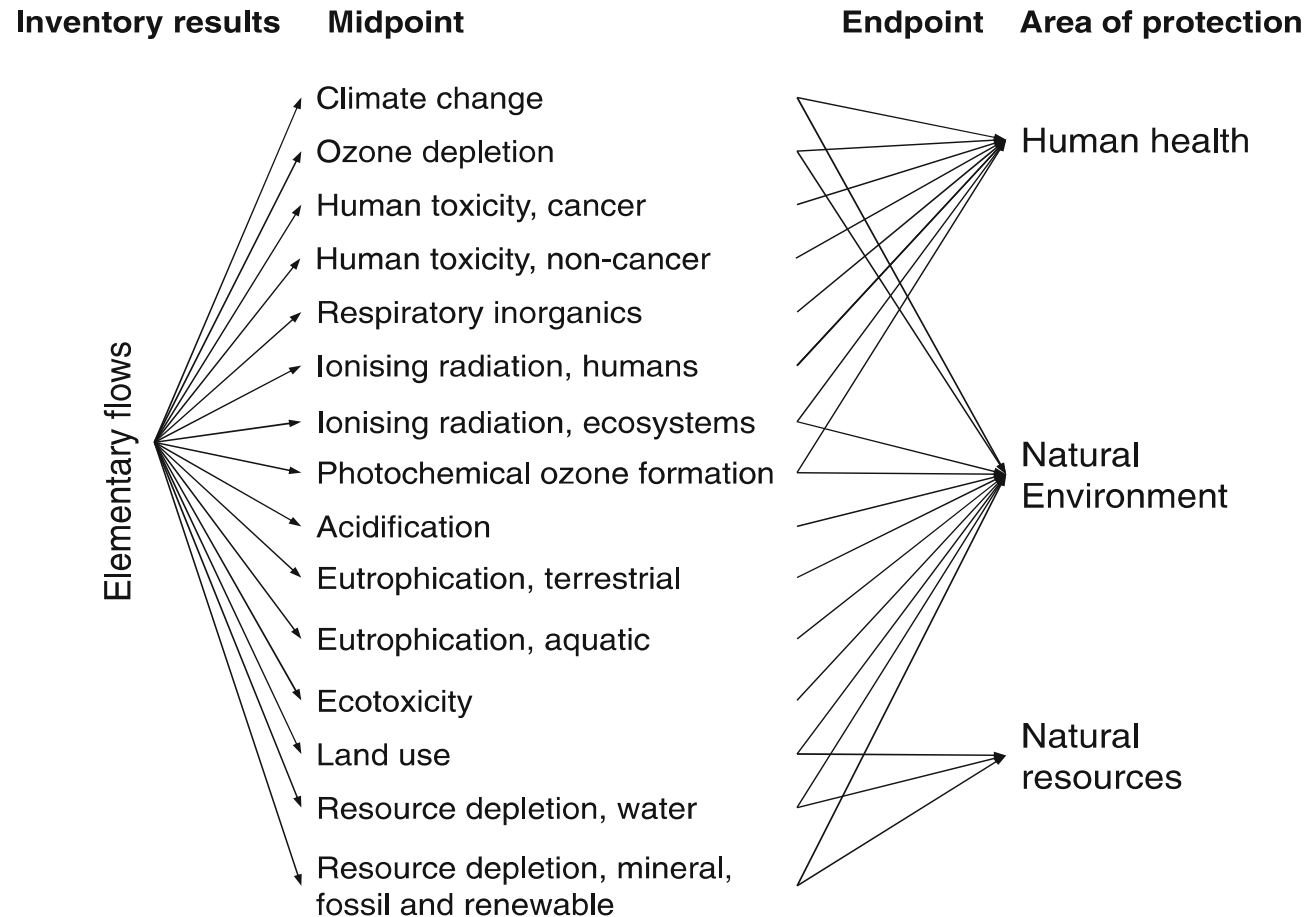
Scope

- Impact assessment



Scope

○ Mid-point indicators



Source: International Reference Life Cycle Data System (ILCD) Handbook, 2011



Guiding principles



- Guided by international initiatives

- International consensus / harmonisation on impact assessment:
 - UNEP / SETAC Life Cycle Initiative
- Guidance on best practice for impact assessment generally
 - European Commission's Joint Research Council (EC-JCR) Life Cycle Impact initiative
 - ISO Standards
 - Impact World+ Framework
- Relevant developments:
 - European Commission's Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) Guide
 - International EPD System
 - Australian BP LCI Project
 - EN15804 Standard
 - National Standards / Australian Standards
 - NZ Whole Building Whole of Life Framework

Guiding principles

1. If there is clear international consensus on a particular method for an impact category of global relevance, then it is prioritised as best practice.
2. Beyond this, the recommendations of best practice are based on the expert judgement of the authors.
3. Consideration is given to the capacity for methods to be regionalised for Australia. For methods that can be regionalised, guidance is provided on the availability of regionalised characterisation factors.
4. Consistency between mid-point and end-point characterisation is taken into consideration.



CONTENTS

Glossary of terms and acronyms	iv
1 How to use this Guide	1
2 Introduction	2
2.1 Context	3
2.2 Scope	4
2.3 Process	5
3 Summary of Recommended Methods	7
4 Details of Impact characterisation	8
4.1 Climate Change	9
4.2 Eutrophication	11
4.3 Particulate matter	15
4.4 Consumptive water use	19
4.5 Ionizing Radiation	22
4.6 Land use – biodiversity	25
4.7 Human- and Eco-toxicity	31
4.8 Ozone Depletion	36
4.9 Resource depletion (mineral and fossil)	36
4.10 Photochemical ozone formation	36
4.11 Acidification	36



4	Details of Impact characterisation	8
4.1	Climate Change	9
4.2	Eutrophication	11
4.3	Particulate matter	15
4.4	Consumptive water use	19
4.5	Ionizing Radiation.....	22
4.6	Land use – biodiversity.....	25
4.7	Human- and Eco-toxicity	31
4.8	Ozone Depletion	36
4.9	Resource depletion (mineral and fossil).....	36
4.10	Photochemical ozone formation	36
4.11	Acidification.....	36
4.12	Land use – ecosystem services.....	36
5	Weighting and Normalisation	37
5.1	Weighting.....	37
5.2	Normalization.....	40
5.3	Recommended approach.....	40
6	References	42
	Appendix 1 – Characterisation Factors for Recommended Methods.....	47

Detailed sections

- Introduction
- Relevance for sectors
- Specific cause-effect pathways captured by the indicator, and the end-point damage indicator(s) it links to
- Overview of available methods
- Any international harmonisation / consensus
- Methods adopted by user organisations
- Challenges in the Australian context and capacity for regionalisation
- Best (and aspirational) practice



Characterisation factors



- Characterisation factors for recommended methods listed in Guide's Appendix
- Will need to be regularly updated

Where to from here

- Due for completion in 1st quarter 2015
- Free access from ALCAS website
- Roundtables / webinars on individual impact categories in 2015
- Accreditation to ALCAS Professional Development program

ALCAS membership



Benefits of ALCAS membership include:

- Free or discounted access to ALCAS events including Roundtables and LCA conferences.
- A quarterly ALCAS newsletter covering local and international LCA developments and activities.
- 50% discount on subscriptions to the International Journal of Life Cycle Assessment.
- Assisting in the advancement and application of LCA and associated tools towards a more sustainable society.
- Participating in the Australian LCA community and in the national and international development of LCA, including related environmental tools and methods
- Join online at www.alcas.asn.au or contact ALCAS Treasurer Treasurer@alcas.asn.au

