

# The Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme Geomorphology Specialisation

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## Why do geomorphologists need to have a certification?

To assess and manage the environment, especially with respect to planning, an understanding of geomorphology is increasingly being included as a statutory requirement. In Australia and New Zealand, prior to 2020, there was no standard available to ensure that a geomorphic advice came from a competent source. In court cases evidence from geomorphologists has been rejected with certified engineers being used instead, when they may have less understanding of the processes involved.

In 2016 a working party was commissioned by the Australian and New Zealand Geomorphology Group (ANZGG) to investigate the potential for creating a certification system in Australia and New Zealand. They concluded that the Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP) scheme offered the most suitable and beneficial certification program. The system was rigorous, well tested for other similar disciplines such as Ecology and Land Rehabilitation, and the cost was not prohibitive. After a four-year long consultation and planning process the working party together with the CEnvP put together and launched the specialist category for Geomorphology.

Criteria for certification were developed in consultation with the wider industry through ANZGG and the CEnvP and ANZGG worked together to establish the specialist category. The Certified Environmental Practitioner Scheme Geomorphology Specialisation was finally launched in late 2020. was finally launched in late 2020.

## The benefits of the Certified Environmental Practitioner program

The CEnvP Program aims to ensure that talented, skilled and ethical environmental professionals are given due recognition in line with their professional counterparts from engineering, accounting, planning and architecture. By certifying practitioners that meet high standards of professionalism and ethical conduct, the Program assists in improving environmental practice and environmental outcomes. Specialist certification enables practitioners to be recognised for their knowledge, experience, and leadership skills in specialised areas of environmental practice.

The benefits of a standardised system to recognise professionalism and ethical practice by geomorphologists practising in industry are many. An accreditation system will benefit the discipline of geomorphology, not just the individual. It should lead to:

- Higher standing for practitioners.
- The capacity to improve professionalism in the practice of geomorphology and to increase the recognition of geomorphology in environmental management when giving expert advice or evidence.

- Lobbying and advocacy; not necessarily limited to the adoption of “suitable qualified professionals” but also, to better geomorphic definitions in legislation, geomorphology recognised more thoroughly in the courts.
- Structured professional development for early career practitioners.

For the purposes of certification, Geomorphology is defined as the study of landforms and landscapes, and the physical processes that create and shape them at or near the Earth’s surface. Geomorphologists study and interpret landscape form, distribution, process and evolution. They analyse landscapes using a combination of field observations, physical experiments and modelling. The Geomorphology Specialist certification under the CEnvP Scheme is designed to promote and embed sound practice by recognising ethical and professionally competent practitioners across Australia and New Zealand.

## Who can qualify for the geomorphology specialism?

To qualify for CEnvP Geomorphology status, you need:

- A degree, or a qualification/academic achievement which is equivalent to a degree, in a relevant discipline (e.g. physical geography, environmental science, geology)
- Ten years<sup>1</sup> of full-time<sup>2</sup> experience in the functional areas of geomorphology practice during the last fifteen years.
- Nomination by three respected environmental professionals who are willing to act as referees for the candidate.
- Evidence that the candidate is a respected, competent, ethical and active member of the profession in the form of at least two referee statements (with at least one external to the applicant’s current place of employment), a detailed curriculum vitae, reports, publications, citations, conference/seminar presentations, etc.
- Evidence of an ongoing commitment to training and professional improvement (at least 100 points of training, professional improvement, service to professional practice over a two-year period). Fifty percent must be directly related to geomorphology practice.
- Completion of a detailed written statement outlining how the applicant’s skills and experience meet each of the Key Proficiencies together with relevant supporting documentation that demonstrates the nature and scope of applicant’s experience (e.g. reports, publications, and independent third-party reviews of work undertaken).
- A signed and witnessed statement of claim covering qualifications, experience, ethics, commitment and the accuracy of the materials provided to the Certification Board.

*[1] With a relevant degree 10 years of experience is required. Without a degree 15 years of experience is required (under the CEnvP ‘grandparent’ provision).*

*[2] Full time work is defined as per the Australian Public Service Commission or the New Zealand State Services Commission. Part-time work, volunteer work, work conducted during post graduate study, and career breaks will also be recognised where appropriate.*

For detail on the Geomorphology Guidance Notes or to start the process in becoming a certified CEnvP Geomorphology Specialist, visit the website at: <https://www.cenvp.org/geomorphology-news/>