

Have your say on draft terms of reference for an environmental impact statement

Environmental impact statement process

The Queensland Coordinator-General has the power to declare a project a 'coordinated project for which an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required' under section 26(1)(a) of the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWO Act).

The declaration triggers the requirement for a project proponent to prepare an EIS and submit it to the Coordinator-General. The purpose of an EIS is to examine and address the project's potential direct and indirect environmental, social and economic impacts.

What are draft terms of reference?

The Coordinator-General prepares draft terms of reference (TOR) for the EIS for each coordinated project. The TOR sets out the matters the proponent must address when preparing the EIS.

Why am I being consulted?

The public and government advisory agencies are invited to comment on whether the draft TOR adequately covers all the matters the project proponent must address when preparing the EIS.

Where are consultations advertised?

A list of open public consultations is available at <https://haveyoursay.dsd.qld.gov.au>

A public notice also appears in state and local newspapers at the start of the consultation period.

How do I comment?

Follow the instructions on the website above or in the public notice for details about how to comment on the draft TOR and the consultation closing date. Send your comments online (preferred) or by email or post.

If you are sending your comments by email, or post, it is preferred that you complete and send the attached comment form. However, you may provide your written comments in any format.

Comment checklist

When commenting:

- clearly state your matter(s) of concern or interest and list points to help with clarity
- reference the relevant section(s) and/or page number(s) of the draft TOR
- explain why you believe any new or revised text should be included in the TOR

- **avoid** comment on the merits of the project or its impacts
- ensure your comments are legible.

Note: Under section 157O of the SDPWO Act, it is an offence to give the Coordinator-General a document that contains information known to be false or misleading.

What happens next?

The Coordinator-General will consider all comments made on the draft TOR before finalising the document, issuing it to the proponent and making it available on the department's website at www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/cg. The proponent then has up to 18 months to prepare a draft EIS in accordance with the final TOR.

Once the Coordinator-General decides the draft EIS is acceptable, it will be made available for public comment, usually for a six-week period.

Privacy

Comments are made as part of a public consultation process and are not confidential. Your comments, including any personal information you provide in connection with your comments, may in the course of and for the purposes of evaluating the draft EIS, performing functions under the SDPWO Act or complying with obligations under other legislation, be disclosed by the Coordinator-General to the project proponent and to other local, State and Commonwealth government agencies. Your personal information will otherwise be dealt with in accordance with the *Information Privacy Act 2009* (Qld).

The Coordinator-General is authorised under Part 4 of the SDPWO Act to collect personal information as part of the public notification process.

Documents in the possession or under the control of the Coordinator-General are also subject to the *Right to Information Act 2009* (Qld).

If you have any concerns about the sharing of information, please contact the project team at [insert project email address].

More information

If you have a question about the consultation process, please contact the relevant EIS project manager (see the public notice or the website for details).

General information about the Coordinator-General's EIS evaluation process is available at www.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/cg

Your comments on the draft TOR (please print)

Section or paragraph no.	Topic—e.g. water quality	Suggested change(s) to draft TOR, including reasons for the change(s)

- If there is not enough space on this form, please attach additional pages. Please write your full name and the name of the project on any separate pages.
- Send the completed form to the email/postal address shown in the newspaper public notice. If you require assistance, please telephone 13 QGOV (13 74 68).
- You must provide your comments by the closing date shown in the public notice and on the consultation website.
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