

Glossary

Acid Sulphate Soil (ASS)	A soil or soil horizon which contains sulphides or an acid soil horizon affected by oxidation of sulphides. This is the definition used in Queensland's Environmental Protection Policy. Acid sulfate soils are the common name given to naturally occurring sediments and soils containing iron sulphides (principally iron sulphide or iron disulphide or their precursors). The exposure of the sulfide in these soils to oxygen by drainage or excavation leads to the generation of sulphuric acid. Note: The term acid sulphate soil generally includes both actual and potential acid sulphate soils. Actual and potential acid sulphate soils are often found in the same soil profile, with actual acid sulphate soils generally overlying potential acid sulphate soil horizons.
Actual Acid Sulphate Soils (AASS)	Soils containing highly acidic soil horizons or layers resulting from the aeration of soil materials that are rich in iron sulphides, primarily sulphide. This oxidation produces hydrogen ions in excess of sediment's capacity to neutralise the acidity resulting in soils of pH of 4 or less when measured in dry season conditions. These soils can usually be identified by the presence of yellow mottles and coatings of jarosite.
Advisory body	Any Commonwealth, State or local Government entity; corporation, statutory authority, local body or private organisation which has expertise or legislative responsibility in relation to the development proposal.
Alluvium	A general term for all detrital material deposited or in transit by streams, including gravel, sand, silt clay, and all variations of these. Unless otherwise noted, alluvium is unconsolidated.
Alternative	A proposition or situation offering a choice between two or more options.
Anthropogenic	Produced or caused by human activity
Arboreal	Primarily tree dwelling.
Audit	See environmental audit.
Australia TradeCoast (ATC)	A marketing initiative that involves a partnership between Port of Brisbane Corporation, BAC, DSDI and the VELOCITY (formerly The Office of Economic Development for the City of Brisbane – alliance between sectors for the purpose of attracting investment to Brisbane lead by BCC). It promotes 8,000 hectares of industrial land that is located, adjacent to the airport and seaport to national and international markets.
Baseline studies	Studies undertaken on the condition/trends of the existing environment.
Benefit-cost analysis	A method of comparing alternatives according to the relative costs incurred (technical, environmental and economic) and the relative benefits gained. The analysis can incorporate discounting calculations to take into account the time value of money.

Biodiversity	Means the variability among living organisms from all sources, including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part, and includes— (a) diversity within species and between species; and(b) diversity of ecosystems (<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>).
Biological diversity	See biodiversity
Bioregion	Means a bioregion shown on map number V0001 held by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>).
Biota	All the organisms, including animals, plants, fungi and microorganisms in a given area.
Burra Charter	The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance; a document prepared by the Australian Committee for the International Council for Monuments and Sites (Australia ICOMOS) to guide conservation philosophy and practice for cultural heritage places in Australia
Carrying capacity	The rate of resource consumption and waste discharge that can be sustained indefinitely in a defined impact region without progressively impairing bioproductivity and ecological integrity.
Catchment	The area of land where rainwater falls and flows naturally or is directed into a watercourse, lake or other water storage (<i>Water Resources Act 1989</i>).
Clay	(1) A soil separate consisting of particles <0.002mm in equivalent diamter. (2) A soil textural class containing >40% clay, <45% sand, and 40% silt.
Colluvium	Sediment accumulated at the foot of a slope
Confined Aquifer	An aquifer bounded above and below by confining units of distinctly lower permeability than that of the aquifer itself
Compensation	Something that constitutes an equivalent or recompense.
Conservation	Is the protection and maintenance of nature while allowing for its ecologically sustainable use (<i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>).
Coordinator-General	The corporation sole constituted under the <i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1938</i> and preserved, continued in existence and constituted under the <i>State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971</i> .
Cost-benefit analysis	See benefit-cost analysis.
Crepuscular	Active at dusk and or dawn.
Crustacea	A phylum of chiefly aquatic arthropods, such as lobsters, prawns, barnacles etc., commonly having the body covered with a hard exoskeleton or carapace

Cultural landscapes	Areas or features within Queensland that: (a) have been or are being used, altered or affected in some way by humans; and (b) are of significance to humans for any anthropological, cultural, historic, prehistoric or societal reason
Discretionary process/decision	A process or decision which the decision-maker is able to base on personal preference.
Diurnal	Active during the day.
Ecological processes	Processes which play an essential part in maintaining ecosystem integrity. Fundamental ecological processes include the cycling of water, the cycling of nutrients and the flow of energy.
Ecosystem	A dynamic complex of plant, animal, fungal and microorganism communities and associated non-living environment interacting as an ecological unit to form a recognisable self-contained entity.
Endangered regional ecosystem”	Means a regional ecosystem that is prescribed under a regulation and has either— (a) less than 10% of its pre-clearing extent remaining; or (b) 10% to 30% of its pre-clearing extent remaining and the remnant vegetation remaining is less than 10 000 ha (<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>).
Endemic	Restricted to a specific region or locality.
Environment	There is no generally agreed definition of environment in EIA. Increasingly, it means the complex web of inter-relationships between abiotic and biotic components, which sustain all life on earth, including the social/health aspects of human group existence. The Environment as defined in Section 8 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> includes: (a) Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including people and communities; (b) all natural and physical resources; (c) the qualities and characteristics of locations, places and areas, however large or small, that contribute to their biological diversity and integrity, intrinsic or attributed scientific value or interest, amenity, harmony and sense of community; and (d) the social, economic, aesthetic and cultural conditions that affect, or are affected by, things mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c).
Environment Australia	Environment Australia incorporates the environment program of the Department of the Environment, the Australian Nature Conservation Agency and the Australian Heritage Commission
Environment Minister	The Commonwealth Minister for the Environment
Environmental assessment	See Environmental Impact Assessment.
Environmental audit	Process focusing on an existing site or activity which involves a systematic, periodic evaluation of environmental management to objectively review the performance of an organisation, management and/or equipment.

Environmental effects	The beneficial as well as the detrimental effects of any development on the physical, biological, or social systems within which such development occurs.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	The process of identifying, evaluating and mitigating the biophysical, social, and other relevant effects of development proposals prior to major decisions being taken and commitments made (The International Association of Impact Assessment, 1999).
Environmentally significant areas	Environmentally significant areas include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Protected Areas” (as defined under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>); • “Critical Habitat” (as defined under the <i>Nature Conservation Act 1992</i>); • Koala Coast Area (as defined under <i>Conservation of Koalas in the Koala Coast — State Planning Policy 1/97</i>); and • Waterways.
Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD)	Development that focuses on making social, economic, and political progress to satisfy global human needs, desires, aspirations, and potential without damaging the environment.
Exceedance	An occasion when a goal, guideline or standard is exceeded
Exotic, species	A plant or animal introduced from another region.
Fauna	Animals found in a given area.
Feral, animals	Animals that have reverted to a wild state from domestication
Flora	Plants found in a given area.
Flow-on or indirect effects	The effects which extend beyond the initial round of purchases and employment, and represent the additional value adding, income and employment generated resulting from second, third, and subsequent-round purchases flowing throughout the regional economy. For example, local suppliers to the construction operations who in turn purchase goods and services from other local firms, and so on, as part of the chain of production. Similarly, households receive income as employees of these firms and spend some of their income on local goods and services. These purchases result in additional local jobs. Some of the income from these additional employees is in turn spent on local goods and services, thereby creating further jobs and income for local households.
Fragmentation, vegetation	When used in the context of vegetation or habitat, refers to division and isolation of vegetation/habitat by vegetation clearing, isolating species and limiting genetic flow
Freehold	Land owned privately see <i>also</i> leasehold
Gley soil	Soil developed under conditions of poor drainage resulting in reduction of iron and other elements and in gray colours and mottles.
Ground truth	To verify on-site data deduced from a model, satellite picture or aerial photograph

Gross Output	This represents the total value of production or total expenditure of the industries under consideration on all goods and services purchased in the chain of production by firms in the region.
Gross Regional Product (GRP) and Gross State Product (GSP)	Gross expenditure measures are susceptible to multiple counting because they sum all the intermediate transactions over all stages of production during the production process. Consequentially, they can substantially overstate the contribution to economic activity. A preferred measure of the contribution to economic growth is value added. This is technically defined as compensation of employees (wages and salaries and supplements) paid to labour plus gross operating surplus and mixed income plus taxes on products and production less subsidies, but for practical purposes measures payments to factors of production (labour and capital), including net taxes on production. The sum of all industry value added is equal to gross regional product (GRP), so value added impacts refer to the contribution to GRP (or gross state product (GSP) at the state level and gross domestic product (GDP) at the national level). This is the accepted economic measure of what an economy produces.
Habitat	The place where an animal or a plant normally lives and reproduces
Heritage	Places, objects and indigenous languages that have aesthetic, architectural, historical, scientific, technological or social significance or other special value for future generations as well as for the community today.
Household Income	This is the income earned by employees as part of the normal operations of the economy.
Horizon, soil	A layer of soil, approximately parallel to the soil surface, differing in properties and characteristics from adjacent layers below or above it.
Humus	That more or less stable fraction of the soil organic matter remaining after the major portions of added plant and animal residues have decomposed. Usually it is dark in colour.
Initial Advice Statement	A report containing a brief, preliminary evaluation of the types of impacts that would result from an action. Often used as a screening process to assess whether or not proposals should undergo full scale EIA.
Interdisciplinary team	A group of people, from a range of disciplinary backgrounds.
Invertebrate	An animal without a backbone composed of vertebrae, that is, segments or bone comprising a column through which the spinal cord passes, not including protozoans <i>see also</i> vertebrate
Initial or direct effects	These impact on the industry <i>per se</i> associated with direct purchases and employment by organisations supplying goods or services to the construction activity, and represent the initial round of value adding, income and employment generated by the activity. For example, the construction activity purchases inputs (eg, materials) from local suppliers. This is the first round impact.
Landform	A component used in the description of the dominant land surface features, which enables the terrain of an area to be described and communicated.

Landform Element	Enables the description of dominant land surface features, which are 40m or more across.
Landform Pattern	Enables the description of dominant land surface features, which are more than 600m across.
Leasehold	land owned by government but leased to a specific person or organisation for a specific purpose <i>see also</i> freehold
Macro-invertebrates	Animals without backbones, visible to the naked eye
Microrelief	Refers to the land surface plane that is up to a few metres across.
Mitigation	The purposeful implementation of decisions or activities that are designed to reduce the undesirable impacts of a proposed action on the affected environment.
Monitoring	Activity involving repeated observation, according to a pre-determined schedule, of one or more elements of the environment to detect their characteristics (status and trends).
Native title	Recognition of rights held by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people according to their laws and customs involving location of land, the rights held, and identification of the holder of the rights
Natural resources	Natural features that have ecological, economic, recreational, educational or aesthetic value.
Noise sensitive land uses	Noise sensitive land uses are as defined in Main Roads Road Traffic Noise Management Code of Practice 2000, which states: <i>"Noise-Sensitive can be applied to:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A dwelling; or</i> • <i>A library , child care centre, kindergarten, school, college, university, or other educational institution; or</i> • <i>A hospital, surgery or other medical centre; or</i> • <i>A protected area, or an area identified under a conservation plan as a critical habitat or an area of major interest under the Nature Conservation Act 1992;</i> <i>A public park or gardens that is open to the public (whether or not on payment of a fee) for use other than for sport or organised entertainment."</i>
Notifiable Activity	An activity that has been identified as a potentially contaminating activity under Schedule 3 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> .
Of-concern regional ecosystem"	Means a regional ecosystem that is prescribed under a regulation and has either— (a) 10% to 30% of its pre-clearing extent remaining; or (b) more than 30% of its pre-clearing extent remaining and the remnant vegetation remaining is less than 10 000 ha (<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>).
Oxidise	The process of reacting with oxygen
Peat	Unconsolidated soil material consisting of largely undecomposed, or only slightly decomposed, organic matter accumulated under conditions of excessive moisture.

Permeable	A rock unit with interconnected pore spaces that allow movement of water.
pH	A measure of acidity or alkalinity, expressed on a logarithmic scale from 1 to 14. 1 is most acid, 7 is neutral and 14 is most alkaline.
Potential Acid Sulphate Soils (PASS)	Soils which contain iron sulphides or sulphidic material which have not been exposed to air or oxidised. The field pH of these soils in their undisturbed state can be pH4 or more and may be neutral or slightly alkaline. However, they pose a considerable environmental risk when disturbed, as they will become very acidic when exposed to air and oxidised.
Potentiometric Surface	An imaginary surface representing the static head of ground water and defined by the level to which water will rise in a tightly cased well.
Precautionary principle	The principle that advises that uncertain outcomes or the lack of full scientific certainty should be fully addressed to prevent environmental degradation.
Proposal	Any project, policy, program, plan or other activity.
Public consultation	<i>See public involvement.</i>
Public involvement	A range of techniques that can be used to inform, consult or interact with stakeholders affected by a proposal.
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat, entered into force in 1975. The Convention, including the List of Wetlands of International Importance established under it, is administered by the IUCN.
Regional Ecosystem (RE)	Means a vegetation community in a bioregion that is consistently associated with a particular combination of geology, landform and soil (<i>Vegetation Management Act 1999</i>).
Register of the National Estate	A national heritage register that covers significant natural, historic and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander places across Australia
Saltflat	Wide expanse of flat country in which the soil is very salty
Saltmarsh	An intertidal plant community complex dominated by herbs and low shrubs
Saltpan	A basin flooded by salt deposits; the remains of evaporated salt water deep water and warmer upper layers that can develop in spring and summer months.
Sand	A soil particle between 0.05 and 2.0mm in diameter; a soil textural class.
Scoping	An early activity to identify the impacts that are most likely to be significant and require investigation during the EIA.
Screening	Preliminary activity undertaken to classify proposals according to the level of assessment that should occur.

Secondary impact	Indirect or induced changes in the environment, population, economic growth and land use and other environmental effects resulting from any action. The potential effects of additional changes that are likely to occur later in time or at a different place as a result of the implementation of a particular action.
Semi-confined Aquifer	An aquifer partially confined by soil layers of low permeability through which recharge and discharge can still occur.
Sensitive land uses	Sensitive land uses are defined as residential uses (noise sensitive land use – dwelling), sensitive community and commercial uses (Noise sensitive land uses other than a protected area or a dwelling) or environmentally significant areas.
Silt	(1) A soil separate consisting of particles between 0.05 and 0.002mm in equivalent diameter. (2) A soil textural class.
Stakeholders	Those who may be potentially affected by a proposal. Stakeholders may include government agencies; conservation groups; relevant business groups; relevant industry groups; local/ regional Chambers of Commerce; Aboriginal groups/ Land Councils/ Councils of Elders; residents/ businesses within hearing, sight or smell of project or project related activities; potential competitors; community groups; and politicians/ elected representatives.
Suspended solids	Suspended particles in a water body see turbidity
Targeted survey (flora and fauna)	A survey with the specific objective of determining the presence or absence, in the survey area, of species and communities of conservation significance and/or their habitats.
Terms of Reference (TOR)	Documented requirements governing EIA implementation, consultations to be held, data to be produced and form/contents of the EIA report.
Tertiary	A period of time between sixty five and three million years ago, prior to the Quaternary period.
teus	Twenty foot equivalent unit. A teus is a measurement of containers. Container are two sizes, namely 20 foot and 40 foot. One teu is one 20 foot container and two teus is two 20 foot containers or one 40 foot container.
Threatened species	A plant or animal that is endangered, vulnerable or presumed extinct
Total impact	The sum of the initial and flow-on effects.
Total Suspended Particles (TSP)	Total suspended particles (in air). Includes all particles from the smallest up to those 50µm in diameter. Particles less than 10 µm (PM10) and particles less than 2.5 µm (PM2.5) are of greatest concern for human health because they are inhaled deeply into the lungs.
Transboundary impacts	Any impact, not exclusively of a global nature, within an area under the jurisdiction of a Party caused by a proposed activity the physical origin of which is situated wholly or in part within the area under the jurisdiction of another Party (i.e. greenhouse gases).
Unconfined Aquifer	An aquifer containing water that is not under pressure; the water level in a well is the same as the water table outside the well.

Value judgement	The use of opinion or belief in analysis or decision making.
Vascular plants	A grouping of plants that include the flowering plants, ferns and gymnosperms
Vertebrate	An animal with a backbone composed of vertebrae, that is, segments or bone comprising a column through which the spinal cord passes see <i>also</i> invertebrate
Vulnerable species	A plant or animal whose population is decreasing, has been seriously depleted or is at risk due to threatening processes
Wetland	Areas of permanent or periodic or intermittent inundation, whether natural or artificial, static or flowing, fresh, brackish or saline and including areas of marine water the depth of which does not exceed six metres. Wetlands typically include areas which show evidence of adaptation of soil or vegetation to periodic waterlogging, such as lakes, swamps, marshes, ponded pastures, rivers, streams and springs, intertidal sand flats, mud flats and mangroves, and shallow seagrass beds or fringing coral reefs (<i>Department of Environment 1996</i>).