

Have your say on a draft impact assessment report

Impact assessment report process

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

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

The Coordinator-General may declare a project to be a coordinated project requiring an IAR if satisfied the environmental effects of the project do not, having regard to their scale and extent, require assessment through the more expansive environmental impact assessment (EIS) process.

The key differences between the IAR and EIS processes are that the IAR process does not include a terms of reference (TOR) and public notification is only mandatory where subsequent statutory approvals require it. However, the Coordinator-General has the discretion to decide the draft IAR must be publicly notified regardless.

The intent is for the streamlined IAR to focus on the assessment of key risk factors associated with each project and to directly address subsequent statutory approval requirements that are assessed to be a low risk of causing environmental impact.

Once the Coordinator-General decides that the draft IAR prepared by the proponent is acceptable for public notification—where required—it is released for public and government advisory agency consultation.

If the project is determined to be a 'controlled action' under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the length of the consultation period must be at least 28 calendar days.

Why am I being consulted?

The public and government advisory agencies may be invited to make a submission on whether the draft IAR adequately addresses the project's potential environmental impacts and the effectiveness of measures the proponent proposes to manage those impacts.

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 make a submission?

Follow the instructions on the website above or in the public notice for details about how to make a submission on the draft IAR and the consultation closing date. Send your comments online (preferred) or by email, post or fax.

If you are sending your submission by email, post or fax, it is preferred that you complete and send the attached submission form. However, you may provide your written submission in any format that meets the requirements set out below.

Submission checklist

When making a submission:

- clearly state your matter(s) of concern or interest and list points to help with clarity
- reference the relevant section(s) of the draft IAR
- provide factual information relied upon and its source
- if you wish, describe any measures you consider would be appropriate to improve the proposal
- provide sketches or diagrams if they assist to clarify your submission
- ensure your submission is legible.

Note: Under section 1570 of the SDPWO Act, it is an offence to give the Coordinator-General a document that contains information known to be false or misleading.

'Properly made' submissions

Under the SDPWO Act, the Coordinator-General is not obliged to consider a submission that is not 'properly made'. Also, to ensure you have appeal rights under other legislation (e.g. the *Planning Act 2016*), your submission must be 'properly made'.

For a submission to be 'properly made', it must:

- be made to the Coordinator-General in writing
- be received on or before the last day of the submission period
- be signed by each person who makes the submission (or submitted online or by email)
- state the name and address of each person who makes the submission
- state the grounds of the submission and facts and circumstances relied on.

What happens next?

After consultation closes, the Coordinator-General evaluates the draft IAR, submissions on the draft IAR and any additional information provided by the project proponent, before deciding whether to accept the draft IAR as the final IAR for the project.

If the Coordinator-General decides that additional information is required from the proponent, then the draft IAR cannot be accepted as the final until that additional information is provided as a revised draft IAR.

When the draft IAR is accepted as final by the Coordinator-General, the Coordinator-General prepares a report evaluating the IAR (CGER) and recommends that the project be either approved or refused.

Privacy

The Coordinator-General is authorised to collect personal information under Part 4 of the SDPWO Act. Your personal information will be used for the purpose of evaluating the draft IAR and undertaking the performance of functions under the Act and other legislation relevant to the proposed project.

Your personal information will not be disclosed to the project proponent by the Office of the Coordinator-General. Disclosure may be required by law, or may be permitted under the *Information Privacy Act 2009*.

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

More information

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

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

Submission form: draft impact assessment report (IAR)

Please complete this form only if you wish to provide a submission by email, post or fax. To make an online submission, visit <https://haveyoursay.dsd.qld.gov.au>

Name of project

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Please write the project name exactly as it appears in the newspaper public notice or at <https://haveyoursay.dsd.qld.gov.au>

Your details (please print)

| | |
|---|--|
| Full name | Organisation (if relevant) |
| Postal address Postcode | Phone number (.....) |
| | Email address |
| Signature | Date/...../20..... |

A submission by more than one person must be signed by *each* submitter

Your comments on the draft IAR (please print)

| Section—e.g. water quality | Describe the issue | Suggested solution |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | | |
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- 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/fax number shown in the newspaper public notice. If you require assistance, please telephone 13 QGOV (13 7468).
- You **must** provide your comments by the closing date shown in the public notice and on the consultation website.
- For this submission to be 'properly made', it must be signed by each person who makes the submission and state the name and address of each person who makes the submission.