

Information sheet

Accreditation of Queensland's environmental assessment processes under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

This information sheet explains how Queensland's environmental assessment processes are accredited under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 and how impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance are assessed through accredited Queensland processes on behalf of the Australian Government

1 Introduction

The [Assessment Bilateral Agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland](#) (the Bilateral Agreement) under section 45 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) aims to reduce duplication between State and Commonwealth environmental assessment processes. Under the Bilateral Agreement, accredited Queensland environmental assessment processes are used to assess impacts on Matters of National Environmental Significance (MNES), including listed threatened species and ecological communities, listed migratory species, and wetlands of international importance, on behalf of the Australian Government.

This information sheet explains how assessment requirements under the EPBC Act are incorporated into Queensland's accredited assessment processes.

2 Accredited Queensland assessment processes

The Queensland assessment processes accredited under the Bilateral Agreement are:

- the environmental impact statement (EIS) process under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act), administered by the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (DETSI) and
- coordinated projects assessed through either an EIS or Impact Assessment Report (IAR), under the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* (SDPWO Act), administered by the Coordinator-General (CG).

Where a project is not assessed under the Bilateral Agreement, the Australian Government may accredit a Queensland assessment process for an individual project under section 87(4) of the EPBC Act.

When an accredited process applies, Queensland assesses both State matters and MNES through a single assessment process. Queensland prepares an assessment report, including an assessment of impacts on MNES, which is provided to the Australian Government to inform decision-making under the EPBC Act.

The Bilateral Agreement applies only to the assessment of environmental impacts. Approval decisions under the EPBC Act remain the responsibility of the Australian Government. Approval decisions required under Queensland legislation remain the responsibility of the Queensland Government.

3 How the Queensland and Australian Government processes work together

Where a project is being assessed through an accredited Queensland process (Figure 1):

- The project proponent refers the proposed action to the Australian Government under the EPBC Act.
- The Australian Government determines whether the action is a controlled action requiring assessment under the EPBC Act and whether an accredited assessment pathway applies to the project.

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- Queensland develops and finalises assessment requirements (terms of reference (TOR) for an EIS or scope of works (SOW) for an IAR), incorporating requirements for assessing impacts on both State matters and MNES, as well as any public comments on the draft TOR (for SDPWO Act projects only).
- The project proponent undertakes stakeholder and community consultation, environmental studies, impact assessments and prepares the EIS or IAR.
- Queensland coordinates technical review, agency input, public consultation, considers any public submissions on the EIS and assesses impacts on both State matters and MNES.
- Queensland prepares an assessment report and provides it to the Australian Government.
- Queensland and the Australian Government consider the outcomes of the assessment process when making decisions under Queensland legislation and the EPBC Act respectively.
- If approved, each jurisdiction administers and enforces the conditions attached to its approvals.

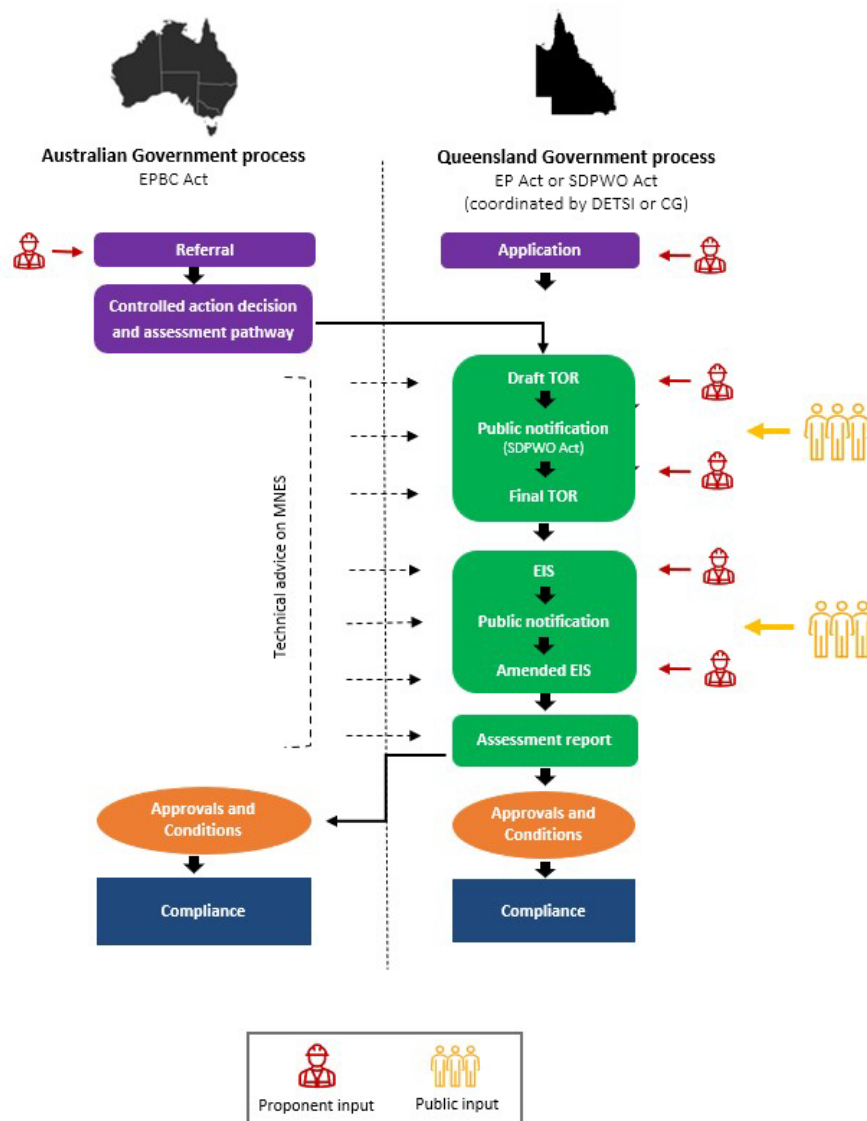


Figure 1: Summary of the EP Act and SDPWO Act accredited assessment processes under the EPBC Act where Queensland assesses MNES on behalf of the Australian Government. Note: For a coordinated project requiring an IAR, the key documents are a SOW and IAR

4 Roles and responsibilities under the Bilateral Agreement

The [Administrative Arrangements between the Queensland Government and the Australian Government](#) support implementation of the Bilateral Agreement and provide a framework and timeframes for coordination throughout the assessment process.

A summary of the key responsibilities of the project proponent, Queensland Government and the Australian Government is provided in Table 1. While the Queensland Government coordinates the assessment, the Australian Government provides technical advice on MNES at key stages of the assessment process (Figure 1).

Table 1: Roles and responsibilities under an accredited assessment process

Party	Key responsibilities
Project Proponent	Refers the project to the Australian Government (where required), consults with stakeholders and the community, conducts studies, prepares assessment documentation, responds to consultation and information requests, and implements approval conditions where required
Queensland Government	Coordinates the accredited assessment process, develops assessment requirements (TOR or SOW), coordinates public notification of the draft TOR (for SDPWO Act projects) and the EIS or IAR, undertakes assessment, considers public submissions on the EIS, prepares the assessment report, and administers approvals and compliance under Queensland legislation
Australian Government	Determines whether the action requires assessment under the EPBC Act (including whether it is a controlled action and the applicable assessment approach), provides technical advice on MNES to Queensland, considers assessment outcomes when making EPBC Act decisions, and administers compliance and enforcement functions under the EPBC Act

5 Further information

Further information about EPBC Act referrals, assessments and approvals is available on the [Australian Government's](#) Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website.

Further information about accredited environmental assessment processes is available on Queensland Government websites for:

- [coordinated projects under the SDPWO Act](#) and
- [the EIS process under EP Act](#).

Disclaimer

While this document has been prepared with care it contains general information and does not profess to offer legal, professional or commercial advice. The Queensland Government accepts no liability for any external decisions or actions taken on the basis of this document. Persons external to the Queensland Government should satisfy themselves independently and by consulting their own professional advisors before embarking on any proposed course of action.

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Version history

Version	Date	Description
1.00	10/08/2026	New document