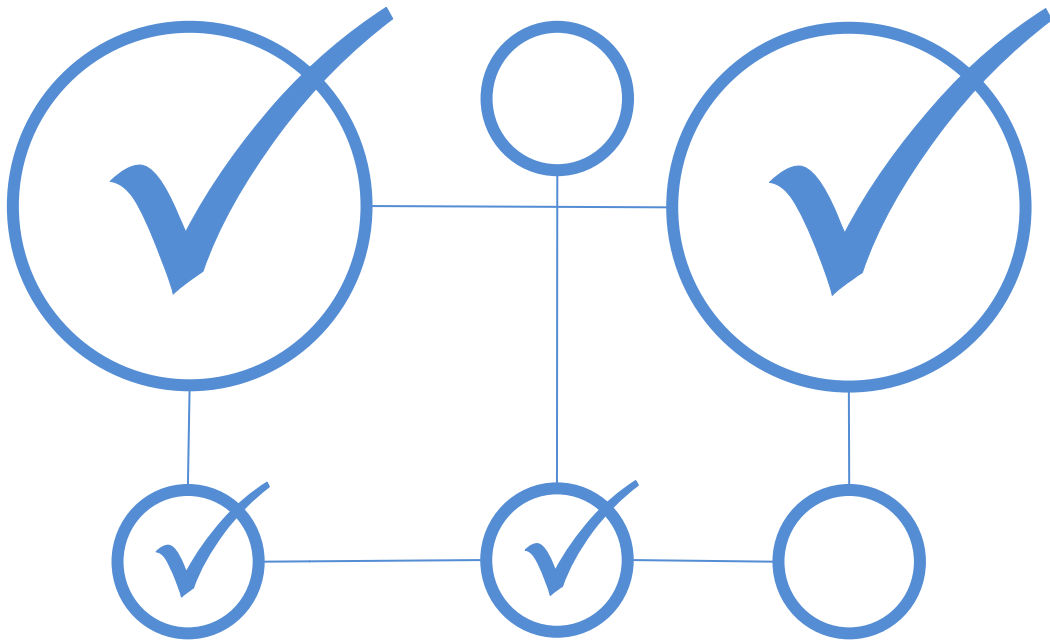


Integrated Project Approvals System

PROJECT DEFINITION DOCUMENT GUIDELINE



PDD Guideline Revision - April 2008

This revision of the Project Division Guideline incorporates changes in response to experience with PDDs submitted based on the previous Guidelines (2004 and 2006 versions).

Key changes are:

- A Project Definition Document (PDD) will be a shorter document consisting mainly of a description of what the proponent proposes to seek approval for after taking into account feedback received during consultation with stakeholders.
- The PDD will provide an initial scan of key issues but information on proposed or completed studies or proposed actions to minimise impacts and address key issues will not be required as part of the PDD. This information will be required later during scoping and assessment.
- The PDD will be accepted by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) as the proponent's referral of the proposal under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 when it is delivered to the EPA. Previously referral was delayed until the PDD had passed through Initial Screening under IPAS.

INTRODUCTION

What is the purpose of this Document?

This document provides information to assist you with the preparation of a Project Definition Document (PDD). A PDD is required to initiate whole-of-government approvals coordination under the Integrated Project Approvals System which applies to resource and related industrial developments in Western Australia.

What is a Project Definition Document?

A PDD is an outline of a proposal providing sufficient information to facilitate, through Assessment Scoping, determination of the:

- regulatory approvals or permits required before the proposal can be implemented;
- issues to be addressed to enable assessment of the proposal by regulatory agencies;
- information needed for agencies to assess the proposal; and
- timetable for production of assessment information and subsequent assessment.

When should you prepare a Project Definition Document?

You should seek initial advice from the Investment Facilitation Division, Department of Industry and Resources, on whether your proposal may benefit from coordination of the approvals process under the Integrated Project Approvals System. Advice can also be obtained from the Office of Development Approvals Coordination (see contact details for both organizations below).

In general, there would be benefit in coordination if multiple approvals are required and there is likely to be:

- assessment under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* at Environmental Protection Statement or higher level; or
- a requirement to amend a Town Planning Scheme or region scheme before the proposal could be implemented.

For projects of any size however the information in the PDD Guideline provides a useful checklist of issues that might need to be considered in developing a proposal. A PDD may facilitate discussion of your proposal with stakeholders and the project description information will likely be required to support other submissions during the approval process.

How is a Project Definition Document used?

Figure 1 provides an outline of the Integrated Project Approvals System process. It shows the:

- three phases of the process, described respectively as 'proponent consultation', 'agency scoping' and 'development assessment'; and
- two approvals decision pathways - the **standard** and the **coordinated** pathway.

The PDD is developed during the **proponent consultation phase** and has two primary purposes:

1. It enables government agencies to determine whether adequate planning and information gathering has been completed by you prior to entering the **agency scoping phase** of the project approvals process.
2. It acts as an initial referral document to agencies for assessment purposes. In particular the PDD will be accepted by the Environmental Protection Authority as your referral of the proposal under Part IV of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

In some cases, review of the PDD may reveal that the proposal and its related issues are less complex than originally indicated. If so, the need for approvals coordination will be reviewed with you.

The PDD provides a framework for further detail and information to be added during agency scoping to produce the document(s) on which the proposal is assessed (called the 'detailed proposal' and outlined in the diagram overleaf).

What is the level of information to be supplied in a Project Definition Document?

The PDD is intended to be an overview document about your project. As a minimum requirement it should outline:

- The key elements of the project including its nature and details of the land affected;
- Consultation with stakeholders and any concerns raised by them; and
- The potential impacts of the proposal on people, the environment and community assets and the key issues involved.

Additional information, for example on proposed or completed studies or proposed actions to minimise impacts and address key issues, will be required later during scoping or in the assessment process. The guidance notes indicate some of the likely information requirements.

Is there an example Project Definition Document?

An example PDD based on a moderately complex proposal has been produced to provide an indication of the level of information expected. The example is available online at www.odac.dpc.wa.gov.au

How should I use the Project Definition Document Guideline?

The Guidance Notes section of this Guideline provides a list of headings for the PDD. Under each heading the information you should provide in the PDD is shown in *italics*. Sections 1 to 3 outline required information, such as the details of your Company and the description of the proposal. In Section 4 focus questions are provided to assist with initial identification of issues that may be relevant to government assessment of the proposal.

The Guidance Notes also outline some of the information requirements that you will need to fulfill to enable assessment of the proposal described in the PDD. The issues to be addressed in the assessment, and the information to be supplied for assessment, will be identified in more detail through Assessment Scoping with relevant agencies, following submission of the PDD.

A PDD template is available for your use. This standardised format will assist agencies to quickly review the information supplied. The template is available online from the Office of Development Approvals Coordination (see contact details below).

Note that the heading list in the PDD is not necessarily exhaustive. If you wish to add headings, please do so at the bottom of the appropriate section of the template rather than changing the order of existing headings.

The following process is suggested for preparation of the PDD:

Step 1:

Read through the template and guideline to develop an understanding of the information to be provided.

Step 2:

Conduct an initial assessment of the potential impacts of your proposal using the questions in Section 4 and the corresponding guidance notes.

Step 3:

Draft the PDD using the template.

- For each relevant heading, refer first to the corresponding guidance note, and then complete the information as appropriate.
- If you are unsure about whether an issue is relevant or significant, indicate that it may be an issue. Further discussion during Assessment Scoping will determine to what extent the issue needs to be addressed.
- If required, add new headings with relevant information at the end of the appropriate section.

You are strongly encouraged to liaise with agencies throughout the proponent consultation phase and to seek informal review of the draft PDD by relevant approval agencies. The Department of Industry and Resources and/or the Office of Development Approvals Coordination can provide guidance and contact information.

Step 4:

Complete the checklist and sign the declaration at the end of the template to ensure you have supplied all relevant information.

How do I submit the PDD?

The completed PDD submission should follow the format of the template and include the required maps and plans as attachments.

The preferred format is in PDF by email (individual file size limit 5Mb). CD or hard copy (10 copies of either) is acceptable but may result in minor processing delays due to the time required for distribution to agencies.

PDDs can be submitted to the Office of Development Approvals Coordination (see contacts below).

Will a submitted PDD be treated as confidential?

The PDD will not be treated as a confidential document and will be circulated to relevant agencies. In addition the PDD may become a public document under certain approvals processes. If confidentiality is an issue, this should be discussed with the Office of Development Approvals Coordination (see contact details below).

What happens after the PDD is submitted?

ODAC checks that the PDD is complete and, if so, submits it to agencies for Initial Screening. If Initial Screening confirms that adequate information is available then ODAC coordinates the Assessment Scoping step.

To prepare for and facilitate Assessment Scoping with agencies it is recommended that you prepare brief summaries of currently available information in relation to potential impacts e.g. biological information, heritage survey reports, water studies etc.

Where can I obtain further information on the PDD or project approvals processes?

A copy of this document and information on project approvals processes is available:

- Online at www.doir.wa.gov.au/approvalsprocesses
 - This site includes links to relevant State and Commonwealth agencies.
- From the following contacts:

Investment Facilitation Division
Department of Industry and Resources
Level 6, 1 Adelaide Terrace
EAST PERTH WA 6004
+61 8 9222 3333
www.doir.wa.gov.au

Office of Development Approvals Coordination
Department of the Premier and Cabinet
Level 19, 197 St Georges Terrace
PERTH WA 6000
+61 8 9222 8753
Email: odac@dpc.wa.gov.au
www.odac.dpc.wa.gov.au

Notes on associated Western Australian Government policies

SUSTAINABILITY

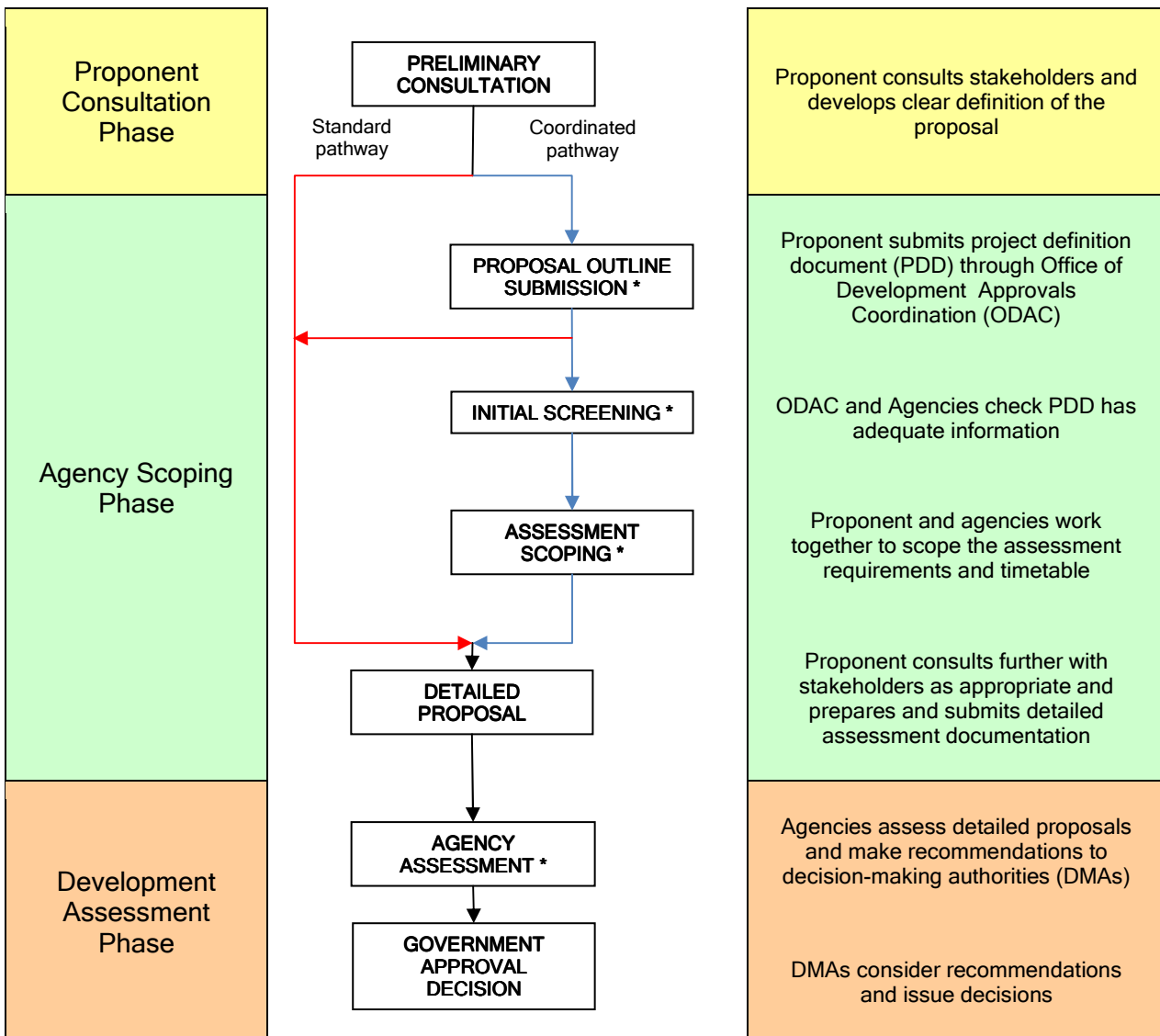
The Government of Western Australia supports development that is consistent with the State Sustainability Strategy (September 2003). Proponents are expected to give consideration to the Principles of Sustainability and the related Environmental Protection Principles in the development of their proposals. Please refer to Appendix 1 of the Guidance Notes.

LOCAL CONTENT

The Government of Western Australia seeks to maximize the benefits from development for Western Australians through its *Building Local Industry Policy*. For contact information regarding assistance in relation to this policy please refer to Appendix 2 of the Guidance Notes.

Figure 1

Outline of Integrated Project Approvals System Process



* Coordination and Monitoring by Office of Development Approvals Coordination

For straightforward projects the same phases apply but it would be unusual to prepare a Project Definition Document, with subsequent coordination of the approvals process through ODAC. ODAC's role in straightforward projects is to provide advice on approvals processes and monitor reporting by agencies on adherence to the agreed timelines.

Preparation and revision of the PDD Guideline

The PDD Guideline is produced by the IPAS Management Group comprising representatives from the Department of Premier & Cabinet's Office of Development Approvals Coordination, the Environmental Protection Authority Service Unit and the Departments of Environment and Conservation, Consumer and Employment Protection, Health, Indigenous Affairs, Industry and Resources, Planning and Infrastructure, and Water. The Guideline is reviewed regularly by the IPAS Management Group to take into account feedback from proponents, consultants, agencies and other stakeholders in approval processes.

Comments regarding structure, content and use should be directed to ODAC at the above address.

PROJECT DEFINITION DOCUMENT GUIDANCE NOTES

The following notes are provided in accordance with the recommended heading list for a Project Definition Document (PDD). The information you should provide in the PDD is shown in *italics*.

SECTION 1: PROPOSAL INFORMATION

1.1 Title of proposal

Please provide a short title for your proposal.

The title you provide will normally be used to identify the proposal in public information. (Please note however that the practice of the Environmental Protection Authority is to identify the proposal according to the nature of the proposal and its location.)

1.2 Proponent details

Please provide the following:

- *Name of proponent (person or entity proposing to implement the proposal, including ACN)*
- *Address of proponent*
- *Name, address and contact details of the key contact for the proposal (this may be a consultant if one is being used)*

The proponent name will be used in public information. Contact details are required for communication purposes.

1.3 Description of proposal

Please provide a brief outline of the proposal.

The outline of the proposal should include the following aspects:

- A description of the proposal including both the built aspects of the proposal and the nature of the ongoing use.
- Whether the proposal is a new project or an expansion of an existing facility. If existing, provide details of current approvals under relevant State legislation.
- A description of the location(s) of the proposed project including an outline of consideration of alternatives and an assessment of those in terms of environmental impacts and project viability.
- A description of any processing involved and the key inputs, products and discharges.
- Details of production design capacity and any staging of the proposal.
- The timeframe in which the activity or development is proposed to occur (include start and finish dates where applicable).
- The proposed ultimate extent (area in hectares) of the activity.
- The source of any bulk building materials eg on site or off site quarries or borrow pits.
- Whether, and in what way, the proposal is related to other proposals in the region.
- Infrastructure to be developed or accessed in association with the proposal, such as roads, railway, water supply, power supply, gas supply and port facilities.
- The proposed approach to the recruitment and training, and, if applicable, accommodation or other facilities for the construction or operational workforce.
- Benefits, possible benefits and costs of the proposal to Western Australia in general.

For further information about public accommodation and facilities see the *Health Act 1911* and associated Regulations or contact the Environmental Health Directorate of the Department of Health (<http://www.population.health.wa.gov.au/Environmental/index.cfm>).

1.4 Locality and Site Development Plans

Please provide information in the following two ways;

a) *Electronic spatial data*

GIS or CAD on CD, depicting the proposal extent, geo-referenced and conforming to the following parameters:

- *Datum: GDA94*
- *Projection: Geographic (latitude/longitude) or Map Grid of Australia (MGA)*
- *Format: Arcview shapefile, Arcinfo coverages, Microstation or AutoCAD*

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The EPA Service Unit inputs this data to its GIS to assist in preparation advice to the EPA on the appropriate level of assessment for the proposal.

AND

b) Plans

Locality Plan - at 1:250 000 or smaller scale (preferably superimposed on an aerial photograph*) showing the site in context with wider community, environmental and associated land use aspects.

Site Plan of existing environment - at 1: 50 000 or larger scale and indicating the key environmental features of the site.

Site Plan of the proposed development - at 1: 50 000 or larger scale (the same scale and cadastre as above) indicating the footprint of the proposal and changes, if any, to the land and environmental features.

The recommended information to be provided on each plan is indicated in the table below. In some cases the same information is recommended for inclusion on more than one plan as a cross reference to assist in evaluating issues in relation to the proposal.

*Aerial photography is available from the Central Map Agency, Landgate, Midland - (08) 9273 7373.

Information	Locality Plan(s)	Site Plan(s) with existing environment	Site Plan(s) of proposed development
Proposed development site and any associated infrastructure	✓		
Main roads	✓		
Adjoining land uses (including recreation and housing)	✓		
Urban centres	✓		
Remnant native vegetation	✓		
Threatened species or ecological communities (if known at this stage)	✓		
Aboriginal heritage sites (if known at this stage)		✓	✓
Native Title claims (if applicable)	✓		
Land vesting, reserves (including proposed reserves) and mineral, petroleum or land titles	✓	✓	
Extent of hydrological features on the site (this includes wetlands, watercourses, creek lines, seasonal creeks and artificial drainage lines)	✓	✓	
Sensitive marine areas	✓	✓	
Contours at an appropriate interval		✓	✓
Information requested in Section 4 of this document - (see 4.1, 4.2 and 4.5)		✓	
Lot boundaries of the site		✓	✓
Road frontage to the site		✓	✓
Extent of native vegetation of the site (please show the extent of overlap between the proposed development area and the area of native vegetation)		✓	✓
Significant geological features (eg faults and soil or rock types that pose engineering/environmental problems.)		✓	✓
Extent of the proposed development area			✓
Extent of the proposed buffer area (if applicable)			✓

Note: The format above is not mandatory. Additional plans may be supplied to convey information that is considered significant.

SECTION 2: PROPONENT CONSULTATION SUMMARY

2.1 Summary of stakeholder consultation to date

Please provide a summary of who has been consulted and the form of consultation

Stakeholders may include local residents, non-government organisations, representative groups, relevant land holders, indigenous groups, Commonwealth agencies, State approval and advising agencies, regional development commissions, local government authorities, or others who have a special interest in and/or may be affected by the proposal. During the project definition process it is recommended that you identify and consult those stakeholders that will be directly affected by the proposal including the government agencies that are likely to have a role in government decisions about the proposal.

Effective community engagement during the proponent consultation phase has been identified as a key factor in achieving timely completion of the government approvals process. The proposed form of the community engagement during both the project assessment period and the ongoing operational period should be carefully considered. Advice on consulting stakeholders is available from:

Department of Premier and Cabinet: <http://www.citizenscape.wa.gov.au>

Environmental Protection Authority: http://www.epa.wa.gov.au/docs/1731_CI_Guidelines.pdf

2.2 Key issues identified in relation to the proposal

Please summarise any significant issues raised by stakeholders.

It is recommended that you provide a summary, in table format, of the issues stakeholders consider to be significant in relation to approval of the proposal and any resultant action you have taken.

2.3 Identified approvals requirements

Please list any identified approvals/permits/licences required from any Commonwealth or State Government agency or Local Authority for any part of the proposal?

Apart from listing the relevant approvals required, this information will assist in determining the sequence of approvals required from relevant agencies and opportunities that might exist for parallel processing of applications. During the agency scoping phase a confirmed list of required approvals will be developed and any parallel processing that is to take place will be identified.

Please name all Agencies and Local Authorities from which you are aware an approval is required. Please advise of any applications lodged or discussions held with any person(s) at the agency or Local Authority.

Information on approvals processes and requirements can be found at:

www.doir.wa.gov.au/approvalsprocesses

Please note that referral of the proposal to the Commonwealth Government under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) is required if the proposal includes actions that are likely to have a significant impact on a matter of national environmental significance.

The EPBC Act identifies seven matters of national environmental significance:

- World Heritage properties;
- National Heritage places;
- Ramsar wetlands of international significance;
- nationally listed threatened species and ecological communities;
- listed migratory species;
- Commonwealth marine areas; and
- nuclear actions (including uranium mining).

For more information visit the following website:

www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about/index.html

SECTION 3: LAND DETAILS

3.1 Site Description

Please provide location details of the proposal site including the address, coordinates (GDA94 format) and land parcel identification numbers.

Geographic coordinates are essential to enable checking against various agency databases to identify issues of potential significance to the proposal.

Example of address: Lot 123, Stirling Highway, Upper Swan, WA 6069

3.2 Ownership

Please provide details of the ownership of the land directly affected by the proposal. If you are not the owner of the land please advise what arrangements have been established to enable access to the land during project planning and implementation.

Change in ownership or authority to use the land as proposed may be complex or have significant time implications. You should be aware of such matters as early as possible.

3.3 Tenure

Please give details of the land tenure.

Possible types of tenure in Western Australia include.

Freehold land held

- Privately and occupied by the landowner (such as town lots or farmland)
- Privately and leased by the landowner (such as town lots or farmland)
- By a State Government Agency
- By a Commonwealth Agency
- By a Local Government Authority
- By Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) as part of the conservation estate.

Crown Land

- Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) administered by Land Asset Management Services, Department for Planning and Infrastructure (DPI)
- Reserved land - vested and managed by a state or local government agency
- Reserved land - leased
- Proposed reserve land
- Leasehold land - pastoral lease or general lease

Navigable Waters

- Rivers, estuaries and ocean under State jurisdiction
- Ocean under Commonwealth jurisdiction

Other Land Title - (including water)

(Land and water that is co-owned in conjunction with land tenure ownership)

- Native Title claim under *Native Title Act 1993* (C/wealth)
- Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA)
- Protected areas under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*
- Mining tenement under *Mining Act 1978*
- Petroleum tenure under State and/or Commonwealth legislation

3.4 Land Zoning

Have you established whether an amendment to a regional planning scheme and/or town planning scheme is required before the proposal can be implemented?

This information will identify opportunities for parallel processing with other approvals such as development approvals, subdivision approvals or environmental assessments. Please check with the relevant Local Government Authorities (LGA), DEC and DPI to obtain this information.

3.5 Land use

Have you established whether subdivision and/or development approval is required before the proposal can be implemented?

This will indicate whether a change in use requires development consent and/or an adjustment to property boundaries in order for the project to proceed. It will also identify opportunities for parallel processing with other approvals such as planning scheme amendments.

3.6 Adjacent land uses

Please identify the use of lands adjoining the project site. Identification should also take into account any nearby communities, potentially sensitive population groups and residences.

This will assist in identifying possible land use conflicts, which may require special project design consideration or the establishment of a buffer zone. See *EPA Guidance Notes on Separation Distances between Industrial and Sensitive Land Uses*, available at www.epa.wa.gov.au

Sensitive Population Groups

Sensitive groups consist of those people who may be more vulnerable to environmental risks than the general population. These may be distinguished by age, gender, health status, ethnic background or other factors of susceptibility. The risks for sensitive groups may fall outside the parameters set by relevant environmental health guidelines and standards.

Please provide details of:

- i) A description or identification of sensitive groups in the population;
- ii) A description of impacts that may affect sensitive groups and the health standards or guidelines that may apply to these groups, including impacts associated with the construction workforce.

The following can assist with demographic and health related information about communities.

- o Department of Health WA
- o Disability Services Commission at <http://www.disability.wa.gov.au/>
- o Australian Bureau of Statistics at <http://www.abs.gov.au/>;
- o Telethon Institute for Child Health at <http://www.ichr.uwa.edu.au>
- o University of Adelaide demography Guides at <http://www.library.adelaide.edu.au/guide/soc/geog/demog.html>

SECTION 4: POTENTIAL IMPACTS

4.1 Flora and vegetation

Does your proposal have potential to impact on native flora and vegetation (terrestrial and marine)?

During scoping information will be required on:

- a) The extent (ha) of any proposed direct impact through clearing.
- b) Any potential for indirect impacts on flora or vegetation.

A permit to clear native vegetation may be required (see next note). For information on permits to clear native vegetation go to www.environment.wa.gov.au then click on 'Land', then 'Native Vegetation Protection' and then 'Clearing Permits'.

- c) Whether an application for a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit has been submitted to DEC.

If you have been advised to submit a PDD it is likely that your proposal will be assessed* by EPA. If the EPA assesses the proposal it will not be necessary to separately apply for a Native Vegetation Clearing Permit. (**"assessed" means EPA considers the proposal and provides recommendations to the Minister for the Environment on whether, and if so under what conditions, the proposal is environmentally acceptable. EPA does not assess all proposals referred to it.)

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- d) Known occurrences of Declared Rare Flora, priority flora or threatened ecological communities, or priority ecological communities. Please indicate on the site plan.

You will need to request a search of the DEC database of known occurrences of rare or priority flora and threatened ecological communities. Please contact the Kensington office of DEC (the DRF Database Technical Officer at Wildlife Branch on 9334 0123) for more information. The database search does not remove the requirement to conduct field surveys under appropriate seasonal conditions (i.e. surveying is generally required during Spring to assist with species identification). Removal of that requirement could only be considered under exceptional circumstances.

If the proposal has potential to impact on State listed Threatened Ecological Communities (TECs) you will need to consult with DEC. Information to be determined in the Agency Scoping Phase will include the possible presence of TECs, potential impacts, mitigation and management measures on TECs by the proposal. Please contact the Species and Communities Branch, DEC on 9405 5170 or 9405 5128 for further information.

- e) Details of any known recent flora surveys carried out over the area to be disturbed.

Please provide the date and name of persons/companies involved in the survey(s). During the agency scoping phase agencies will require the opportunity to review the survey reports. Flora and vegetation surveying will be required over the area to be disturbed by the proposal, according to a methodology agreed between the proponent and the advising government agencies. It is strongly recommended that proponents and/or their environmental consultants contact and seek agreement with DEC in relation to the scope of any surveys well before commencement of the surveys. Please refer to Appendix 2 of these guidance notes and EPA Guidance Statement Number 51, *Terrestrial Flora and Vegetation Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia*, for further information.

- f) An assessment of the vegetation type and condition, including weed status.

To assist proponents and their consultants, standard guidelines for assessment of vegetation condition and weeds are currently in preparation.

- g) Any potential impact on groundwater dependent ecosystems or riparian systems.

Please provide details of any aspect of the proposal (such as ground water abstraction or built structures that will affect hydrological processes) that may impact on flora or vegetation that is part of a groundwater dependent ecosystem or riparian system.

4.2 Fauna

Do you expect that any fauna or fauna habitat will be impacted (terrestrial and marine)?

During scoping information will be required on:

- a) The nature and extent of the expected impact.
- b) Details of any known recent fauna surveys carried out over the area to be disturbed.

Please provide the date and name of persons/companies involved in the survey(s). During assessment scoping agencies will need to review the survey reports. Fauna surveying may be required for the area to be disturbed by the proposal, according to a methodology agreed between the proponent and the advising government agencies. It is strongly recommended that proponents and/or their environmental consultants contact and seek agreement with DEC in relation to the scope of any surveys well before commencement of the surveys. Please refer to Appendix 2 of these guidance notes and EPA Guidance Statement Number 56, *Terrestrial Fauna Surveys for Environmental Impact Assessment in Western Australia*, for additional guidance.

- c) Any impact on migratory species or breeding/nesting activity of migratory species such as birds, turtles etc.

You are encouraged to address the movement of fauna, including corridors and broader ecological impacts of the proposal, in addition to providing fauna lists.

- d) Known occurrences of Specially Protected (Threatened), Priority Listed or geographically restricted fauna on the site. Please indicate on the site plan.

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You will need to request a search of the DEC database for known occurrences of Specially Protected (Threatened) fauna listed under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* or Priority Listed fauna within the area to be impacted by the proposal. Please contact the Kensington office of DEC (the Senior Zoologist at Wildlife Branch on 9334 0421) for more information. Note that the database search does not remove the requirement to conduct field surveys.

- e) Any known subterranean fauna that may be impacted.

If the potential for impacts on subterranean fauna exists in relation to the proposal, sampling will be required. For further information refer EPA Guidance Statement Number 54, *Consideration of subterranean fauna in groundwater and caves*, for further information. If the proposal has the potential to impact on groundwater dependent ecosystems further consultation with DEC will be required during assessment scoping regarding potential impacts, mitigation and management measures.

4.3 Broader Environmental Impacts

Is it likely that this proposal will have significant impacts at a broader, landscape scale?

During scoping information will be required on:

- a) Impacts upon broader biodiversity values.
- b) Potential ecological or hydrological impacts at a landscape scale.
- c) Potential impacts on local and/or regional environmental corridors.
- d) Increased potential of environmental threats (such as fire, weeds, disease, feral fauna) as a result of the proposal.
- e) Whether affected vegetation/habitat types or landforms are adequately represented outside the proposal site (or likely impact area).

Broader biodiversity values include, for example, mangroves or high quality mulga as opposed to specific, critical biodiversity values. Potential impacts from a project can be just as significant on land adjacent to a development as the proposal site itself. You are encouraged to investigate impacts of the proposal at a broader, landscape scale in addition to critical on-site impacts. Your assessment should advise whether the affected values are represented within or outside the conservation estate.

4.4 Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Is there potential impact from this proposal on any environmentally sensitive, areas such as areas set aside for conservation or significant natural land features?

During scoping information will be required on the type(s) of areas involved and a description of the potential impacts.

Environmentally sensitive areas include:

- Lands vested in the Conservation Commission e.g. national parks, nature reserves, conservation parks, State forest etc.
- Areas set aside for conservation or significant natural land features.
- Proposed additions to the public conservation estate according to approved Conservation Commission management plans and Government policy, including lands acquired by the State for conservation purposes and proposed exclusions from pastoral leases under the 2015 acquisition process.
- Lands vested in the Executive Director, DEC.
- Private property holding either a DEC Conservation Covenant or a National Trust Covenant. Both types of covenant are found on Certificates of Title, which can be viewed by contacting Landgate on 9273 7373.
- Bush Forever sites (if located within the Perth Metropolitan Region). Contact the Bush Forever Office, at DPI on telephone number 9264 7777. Indicate which Bush Forever site is affected (identify site number and name of site where appropriate).
- EPA recommended conservation areas (known as "Red Book" areas). Refer to *A Conservation Reserve System for Western Australia* [Available at the DEC Library and the State Reference Library] The location of Red Book areas can be determined using the online database Tengraph - available at www.doir.wa.gov.au (point to Online Databases and select Tengraph online. Registration, which is free, is required for the use of Tengraph).

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- World Heritage properties or National Heritage places. Referral to the Commonwealth will be required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. For more information: www.environment.gov.au/epbc/about/index
- Regional Parks (Perth metropolitan area only). The location of Regional Parks can be determined using the online database Tengraph - available at www.doir.wa.gov.au (point to Online Databases and select Tengraph online. Registration, which is free, is required for the use of Tengraph). Alternatively, contact DEC's Regional Parks Unit on (08) 9431 6500.
- Biosphere Reserves. A biosphere reserve includes one or more protected areas and surrounding lands that are managed to combine both conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. 'Biosphere Reserve' is an international designation made by UNESCO. There are 12 biosphere reserves in Australia, two of which are in WA - Prince Regent Nature Reserve and Fitzgerald River National Park. For further information refer to www.environment.gov.au/parks/biosphere
- Any known significant natural land features (e.g. caves, ranges etc) that will be impacted by the proposed development.

4.5 Coastal Zone

Will the development occur within 300m of a coastal area?

During scoping information will be required on:

- a) The expected setback of the development from the high tide level and from the primary dune.
- b) The extent of impact on coastal areas with significant landforms including beach ridge plain, cusped headland, coastal dunes or karst.
- c) The extent of expected impact on mangroves
- d) The extent of expected impact on any recreational use (proposed or existing) of waters.

The following may be relevant to your proposal:

- o EPA Guidance Statement 1 - Protection of Tropical Arid Zone Mangroves along the Pilbara Coastline;
- o Statement of Planning Policy 2 - Environmental and Natural Resources;
- o Statement of Planning Policy 2.6 - State Coastal Planning Policy;
- o Development Control Code 6.1 - Country Coastal Planning Policy;
- o The National Health and Medical Research Council - *Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water 2005* which provides information on recreational water quality assessment methodologies and standards.

4.6 Marine Areas

Will the development occur within a marine area?

If the proposal includes actions that are likely to have significant impact on Commonwealth marine areas, referral to the Commonwealth will be required under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*. For more information see: <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/index.html>

A State Environmental Policy for the protection of State marine waters is in development. For more information please refer to State Environmental Policies at www.epa.gov.au.

During scoping information will be required on:

- a) Likely impacts on sensitive benthic communities.

'Sensitive benthic communities' includes, for example, sea grasses or coral reefs.

- b) Likely impacts on land or waters vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority and marine areas currently being reserved or candidates for reservation.

Land or waters vested in the Marine Parks and Reserves Authority are marine parks, marine nature reserves or marine management reserves. Areas currently being reserved or candidates for reservation are described in *A Representative Marine Reserve System for Western Australia*, CALM, 1994. [Available at the DEC Library and the State Reference Library]

- c) Any requirement to construct or have access to port facilities or navigation channels.
- d) Any requirement for dredging and dredge spoil disposal.

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- e) Extent of any impact on shipping and navigation due to the landfall position of infrastructure (such as pipelines or jetties).
- f) Any likely impact on marine areas used extensively for recreation or for commercial fishing activities.

You are encouraged to consult relevant agencies with interests in marine areas such as Fisheries WA, port authorities, DPI (Marine Section - 08 9216 8999), Local Government, DOH or DEC in the relevant region.

4.7 Rivers, creeks, wetlands, estuaries and protected water catchments

Will the development occur:

- o *Within 200m of a river, creek, wetland or estuary; or*
- o *Within a protected or environmentally significant surface or groundwater water catchment?*

During scoping information will be required on:

- a) The extent of any direct or indirect impact on the identified wetland/s or water body/s.

In particular you should identify whether there is likely to be impact within or in the buffer of any wetland in the following categories:

- o *Conservation Category Wetland (DEC Geomorphic Wetlands, Swan Coastal Plain Dataset).*
- o *Environmental Protection (Swan Coastal Plain Lakes) Policy 1992.*
- o *Lakes gazetted in the Environmental Protection (South West Agricultural Zone Wetlands) Policy 1998.*
- o *Wetlands recognised as having National (Wetland of National Importance) or International significance.*

Wetlands of international significance are those listed under:

JAMBA: Japan Australia Migratory Birds Agreement

CAMBA: China Australia Migratory Birds Agreement

Ramsar: Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (for further information refer to: www.environment.gov.au/water/environmental/wetlands/index.html)

DEC should be consulted in relation to the applicable buffer distance for potentially affected wetlands in any of the above categories.

- b) Whether the proposal is in:
 - o A proclaimed or proposed groundwater or surface water protection area.
 - o An existing or proposed Underground Water Supply and Pollution Control area.
 - o A Public Drinking Water Supply Area (PDWSA).

Activities permitted to occur within PDWSAs are restricted by Priority Land classification (P1, P2 or P3) and/or well head exclusion zones. A proposal to clear vegetation within a PDWSA requires approval from DEC. Please check with the Water Source Protection Branch of the Department of Water (+61 8) 6364 7600 for further information.

- c) The extent of expected impact on any recreational use of waters.

The following may be relevant to your proposal

- o The National Health and Medical Research Council - *Guidelines for Managing Risks in Recreational Water 2008* which provides information on recreational water quality assessment methodologies and standards. <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/synopses/files/eh38.pdf>

4.8 Hydrology

Will the proposal lead to changes to local surface or groundwater hydrology including land drainage or groundwater recharge rates or pathways?

During scoping information will be required on:

- a) Any proposed movement of water off-site, including method and location of discharge.
- b) Any required drainage of the land.
- c) Potential impacts on ground or surface water resources such as levels and quality.
- d) Any other potential impact of water discharges.

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- e) Any potential impact of built structures that may affect hydrological processes, such as roads, dams, pipelines etc.

Consult with Department of Water (08) 6364 7600 and, if related to agricultural land drainage, the Department of Agriculture.

4.9 Water Supply

Will the proposal require water supply for construction, operation or for drinking purposes??

During scoping information will be required on:

- The water requirement for the construction and operation of this proposal, in terms of quantity (kl/year) and quality.
- Details of the proposed sources and uses of water for the proposal (eg licensed provider, recycled water, dam, bore, surface water etc).
- Whether a sufficient and sustainable water resource is available for the proposal.
- Your drinking water requirements and proposed supply.

Consult with Department of Water (DoW) (08) 6364 7600 as to whether approvals are required to source water as you propose. Where approval is required you will need to obtain a letter of intent from DoW before assessment of your proposal. Contact the Catchment Management Branch of DoW on (08) 6364 7600.

If drinking water is not from a scheme water supply or from a licensed potable water supplier - refer to the *2004 Australian Drinking Water Guidelines*:

<http://www.nhrmc.gov.au/publications/synopses/eh19syn.htm>

For further information contact the Environmental Health Directorate of the Department of Health <http://www.population.health.wa.gov.au/Environmental/index.cfm>.

4.10 Emissions

Is there likely to be any significant discharge from the development such as chemicals, gaseous emissions, liquid effluent, dust, odour, noise, vibration or radiation (including light)?

All efforts should be made to eliminate or minimise discharges off site. Where this cannot be avoided even with the application of best practice, then the likely impacts (on flora and fauna as well as on human settlements) and monitoring of those discharges must be identified. Fees for licences to discharge waste are based on the amount of waste discharge, so there is also an economic incentive to minimise waste emissions.

If emissions have the potential to impact upon the community an appropriate risk assessment to evaluate likely health implications should be undertaken. The following documents provide information on the requirements for and content of a Health Risk Assessment:

- National Environmental Health Council (enHealth) document: Environmental Health Risk Assessment, Guidelines for assessing human health risks from environmental hazards (available from <http://enhealth.nphp.gov.au/council/pubs/ecpub.htm>)
- DEC Technical Guidance for Health Risk Assessment (in development).

The National Environment Protection Measures (NEPM) provide national goals, standards and/or guidelines for the protection or management of environmental aspects. For further information visit <http://www.ephc.gov.au/>

A range of environmental health publications, including accepted guidelines for air and water quality can also be found at the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHRMC) website <http://www7.health.gov.au/nhrmc/publications/subjects/environmental.htm>

During scoping information will be required on:

a) Emissions to Atmosphere

Briefly describe any likely emissions (nature, concentration, mass emission rates, discharge points). Include a summary of current air quality and meteorological information.

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Describe any modelling or analysis undertaken or proposed to demonstrate that relevant health guidelines will be met, including consideration of cumulative impacts from other emission sources.

If the proposal is likely to result in substantial greenhouse gas emissions (greater than 100 000 tonnes per annum of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions), provide an estimate of the annual gross emissions in absolute and in carbon dioxide equivalent figures. Describe proposed measures to minimise emissions, and any sink enhancement actions proposed to offset emissions. See *EPA Guidance Statement on Minimising Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, available at www.epa.wa.gov.au.

For some projects, onsite meteorological data for at least a full year may be required to effectively model emissions and dispersion. Discussions on data requirements should be held with DEC as early as possible. For further information see *Air Quality and Air Pollution Modelling Guidance Notes, Department of Environmental Protection Western Australia June 2000* (available at www.dec.wa.gov.au then Air/Air Quality/Guidelines). Note that in order to meet DEC requirements it is necessary to follow these guidance notes.

Particulates (including dust)

Briefly describe any likely dust or other particulate emissions from proposed construction or operational activities.

Describe any analysis undertaken or proposed to demonstrate that relevant guidelines will be met. For more information on dust and other particulates, see *National Environmental Protection Measures and Air Quality (2004)* available at www.dec.wa.gov.au.

Odour emissions

Briefly describe any likely emissions (nature, concentration, emission rates, discharge points). Describe any modelling or analysis undertaken or proposed to demonstrate that relevant guidelines will be met, including consideration of cumulative impacts from other emission sources.

For more information on odour, see *EPA Guidance Statement on Assessment of Odour Impacts from New Proposals*, available at www.epa.wa.gov.au.

Water Borne Emissions

Briefly describe the nature, concentrations, mass rate and discharge points, and receiving environment, of any discharge.

If there is likely to be discharge to a watercourse, wetland or marine environment, describe any analysis done or proposed to demonstrate that the *National Water Quality Management Strategy* or other appropriate standards can be met including consideration of cumulative impacts from other emission sources.

If discharges are to ground, describe any analysis or studies done or proposed to demonstrate that surface and ground water quality and the environment generally will not be adversely affected.

Briefly describe any potential human exposure to waterborne pathogens from water use or storage associated with the proposal. For further information refer to the *Health (Air-Handling and Water Systems) Regulations*.

Noise

Describe any significant off-site noise emissions. If the development will be subject to the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations*, for assessment you will need to provide a copy of any analysis carried out to demonstrate that the proposal will comply with the Regulations.

Vibration

Briefly describe any significant vibration that may be generated from proposed construction or operational activities.

Describe any analysis undertaken or proposed to demonstrate that relevant guidelines will be met. For more information, refer to *AS2670-2 (1990)*.

Radiation (including light)

Briefly describe any significant electromagnetic radiation that may be generated by the proposal.

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Describe any analysis undertaken or proposed to demonstrate that relevant standards or guidelines will be met.

The *Radiation Safety Act 1975* together with the Radiation Safety (General) Regulations specify Maximum Exposure Levels for the emissions from power lines, radiofrequency radiation (including mobile phone towers) and ultraviolet radiation.

When it is likely that electromagnetic radiation or alternatively strong electric or magnetic fields may be generated by the proposal, it may be necessary to demonstrate that relevant standards or guidelines will be met. The Environmental Health Directorate of the Department of Health can provide advice on these topics.

For further advice to assist on reporting radiation sources and exposures refer to *Appendix 4 - Further General Guidance Notes on Public Health Impacts*.

Offsite impacts on 'sensitive premises'

If the proposal has the potential to generate off-site air quality impacts, dust, noise, odour or another pollutant that may affect the amenity of residents and other "sensitive premises" such as schools and hospitals (proposals in this category may include intensive agriculture, aquaculture, marinas, mines and quarries etc.) describe the likely impact and provide the distance to residences and other "sensitive premises".

If the proposal has a residential component or involves "sensitive premises", identify whether it is located near a land use or activity that may impact on that component. If so, describe and provide the distance from that activity to the residential component.

This aspect may indicate that a buffer area is required to ensure that the proposal does not adversely impact on existing land uses. Buffer areas should be conservative by design and should allow for any possible future expansion of the project. They are also critical for preventing encroachment by sensitive land uses, which would threaten the sustainability of the proposed activity.

Prescribed premises

Please advise, if known, whether the proposal will make the premises prescribed under the *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* and, if so, what category(s) of prescribed premises.

Refer to:

- *EPA General Guide to Proponents for Referrals* for more information. Available at: www.epa.wa.gov.au
- *Guide to Works Approvals*, available at www.dec.wa.gov.au

4.11 Waste Storage, Treatment or Disposal

Will the proposal generate significant amounts of solid or liquid wastes?

During scoping information will be required on:

- a) The nature, volume and proposed storage, treatment or disposal location/method of any solid or liquid wastes.
- b) Any seepage or leachate implications of waste storage or disposal.

All efforts should be made to minimise the generation of wastes in the design of the project. If, even with the application of best practice, wastes are still generated, options for the reuse or recycling of those wastes should be considered before storage and disposal issues are considered.

For information on the onsite treatment and disposal of sewage or the reuse of wastewater contact the Environmental Health Directorate of the Department of Health <http://www.population.health.wa.gov.au/Environmental/index.cfm>

4.12 Soils

Are there any significant issues to be addressed in relation to soils, such as acid soils, soil contamination, or soil-borne disease?

During scoping information will be required on:

- a) Acid forming rock or acid soils present.

The acid forming material aspect needs to address both possible existing contamination and the potential for contamination from exposing in situ soils/rocks to rain and air.

- b) Expected impact of soil contamination on or off site.

You should identify and describe any previous land use that is likely to have caused contamination on the site as well as identifying and describing any contamination that is likely to be caused by or result from the proposed activity.

- c) Expected impacts on flora and vegetation as a result of soil borne disease (dieback).

With respect to disease management, you need to provide a brief summary of dieback surveying completed/required and proposed disease hygiene management.

4.13 Geotechnical/Seismic

Are you aware of any geotechnical/seismic issues with the site that may be relevant to assessment of the proposal?

During scoping information will be required on the issues and on the site geology and hydrogeology.

Examples where geotechnical issues are relevant to the assessment include mines, tailings facilities, pipelines and industrial process facilities and structures including tanks where structural failure could result in significant safety or environmental issues.

If geotechnical or seismic issues are relevant, your detailed proposals for assessment will need to provide site geology information on both the superficial and bedrock formations, including details of the soil and bedrock stratigraphy, and giving information on the depth, thickness, continuity and composition of each significant layer. Information on hydrogeology will need to cover the hydrogeological properties of the site, including aquifers and aquicludes, local and regional piezometric surfaces, local and regional groundwater flow systems and groundwater chemistry.

4.14 Safety

Is the proposed development:

- *Likely to generate off-site risk to human safety; or*
- *Located near any hazardous industrial plant or high-pressure gas pipeline?*

Indicate if you know whether the proposal will be a major hazard facility regulated under the Explosives and Dangerous Goods Act 1961.

During scoping information will be required on:

- a) Any potential to generate off-site risk from the proposal.
- b) Any hazardous industrial plant or high-pressure gas pipeline near the proposal and the likely implications.

For assessment, you will be required to submit an assessment of the risks associated with the proposal itself as well as cumulative risks to/from other industrial sources. Please refer to *EPA Guidance Statement for Risk Assessment and Management - Offsite individual risk from Hazardous Industrial Plant*, available at www.epa.wa.gov.au.

Refer to schedule 1 of the *National Standard for the Control of Major Hazard Facilities* available at: www.ascc.gov.au

4.15 Heritage

Is it possible that the proposal will impact upon a place or object of heritage significance within the meaning of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972, the Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990, or the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Commonwealth), or any place listed in a town planning scheme?

Aboriginal heritage under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972

For scoping and/or assessment you will be expected to:

- a) Provide the results of a search of the Register of Places and Objects established and maintained under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 1972. An electronic index to the Register can be found at: http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/Heritage/heritage_Sites_Register.aspx
- b) Provide details of any consultations that have occurred with Aboriginal people about Aboriginal heritage issues on the subject land, including a brief explanation of who was consulted, how those persons were identified and an outline of the consultation process.
- c) Identify any professional Anthropologist and/or Archaeologist engaged to conduct an Aboriginal heritage survey or surveys of the subject land.
- d) Provide details of any known recent Aboriginal heritage surveys (i.e. during the last five years) carried out over all or any of the subject land. Details of existing heritage surveys are available at http://www.dia.wa.gov.au/Heritage/heritage_Sites_Register.aspx.

Where your development may impact upon an Aboriginal site of significance, you may decide to seek authorisation for the development from the Minister for Indigenous Affairs under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act* 1972. Further information about relevant processes under the Act can be found on the Department of Indigenous Affairs (DIA) website at www.dia.wa.gov.au/heritage. In particular, it is recommended that proponents peruse the *Aboriginal Heritage Procedures Manual* and *Advice to Developers*, both found on the website. For information specific to a particular proposal contact the Registrar of Aboriginal Sites at DIA on 9235 8000.

Note also that the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act* 1984 (Commonwealth) enables the Federal Minister for the Environment and Heritage to make declarations in respect of places of significance to Aboriginal people that are under threat of injury or desecration. Some familiarity with this process and its consequences is recommended. For more information see: <http://www.environment.gov.au/heritage/index.html>

Heritage places under the Heritage of Western Australia Act

The State Register of Heritage Places provides information about the extent of registrations, and why places are significant. For more information see: <http://www.heritage.wa.gov.au/>

Please provide information on affected places including a concise “statement of impact” that explains how the proposed development will impact upon the identified cultural heritage significance, and what measures are proposed to mitigate or manage any adverse impacts.

Heritage places under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act

Please provide information on World Heritage properties or National Heritage places that are affected including a concise ‘statement of impact’. For more information see: <http://www.environment.gov.au/epbc/matters>

Heritage places listed under a town planning scheme

Please provide information on those places or objects that are affected including a concise ‘statement of impact’.

4.16 Community Infrastructure

Is the proposal likely to have a significant impact on community infrastructure?

During scoping information will be required on:

- a) Sites of public interest including major recreation areas or natural scenic features and any change (increase or decrease) that may occur in recreational use or cultural areas of the project area or surrounds.
- b) A demographic snapshot of the existing, future/projected and proposed population.
- c) Current human infrastructure provisions (i.e. types, styles and capacities).
- d) Current infrastructure issues, including any short falls in current services.
- e) Likely additional infrastructure needs arising from the proposal.

- f) Any likely impacts of the proposal on existing adjacent communities and social networks, including Impacts associated with the construction workforce.

4.17 Public Health

Does your proposal have the potential to increase exposure of the public to human disease risks?

During scoping information will be required on:

- a. Proximity to or creation of habitat that may breed or harbour nuisance/disease-carrying organisms (including insects) and/or animal reservoirs;
- b. The nuisance/disease-carrying organisms and/or animal reservoirs and their habitat and the disease(s) they transfer to humans;
- c. Proposed investigations (including baseline);
- d. Potential mitigation measures [including removal/modification of breeding habitat (source reduction) and insect control].

Mosquito management plans and appropriate public warnings and education to reduce exposure to mosquito-borne disease will be required for developments in high-risk areas or where development itself has the potential to increase risk.

Several important disease-carrying mosquito species in WA will disperse over three kilometres from their breeding sites (natural wetlands, floodplains and other water bodies). Mosquito management will be important in high risk regions but may not be permitted in wetlands of high environmental significance. Therefore, environmental managers should be consulted at an early stage for proposed developments within three kilometres of such wetlands.

Artificial or modified water bodies, stormwater and wastewater management infrastructure, dams and irrigation projects, earthworks, tidal manipulation and other activities that result in changes to impoundment of water have the potential to become sites of prolific mosquito breeding, and must also be carefully designed and managed.

The presence of other disease carrying organisms or animal reservoirs including rodents or some insects should be investigated and, if present appropriate management plans to minimise human risk developed.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the Environmental Health Directorate of the Department of Health <http://www.population.health.wa.gov.au/Environmental/index.cfm>. Information on mosquito management is available from the following references:
Department of Health, Western Australia (2004). Mosquito Management Manual 2004
Mosquito Control Association of Australia (2002). Australian Mosquito Control Manual.

- e. Nuisance insect breeding

Management plans for both within and also outside the development area should be prepared to minimise the impact on public amenity if nuisance insects are present.

Further information on management plans for nuisance insects can be obtained from the Environmental Health Directorate of the Department of Health <http://www.population.health.wa.gov.au/Environmental/index.cfm>.

4.18 Transport

Will the proposal (during construction and/or operation) require substantial transport of raw materials, products, people or wastes, which may affect the amenity of the local area or pose a risk to the environment along the transport route?

During scoping information will be required on the nature of the transport requirements and the potential impacts.

For assessment of the proposal a Transport strategy will be required to outline:

- a) Expected transport modes, routes and frequency of movements to be generated.
- b) On-site transport and parking provisions.
- c) The nature and capacity of existing infrastructure to accommodate the project.
- d) The nature and phasing of any upgrading of existing infrastructure.

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- e) Construction impacts as well as impacts from the ongoing operations, which may affect the amenity of the local area or the environment along the transport route.
- f) The manner in which the overall transport needs of the project will be implemented and phased over the life of the development.

4.19 Closure Planning/Decommissioning

At this stage, have you formulated proposals for decommissioning, rehabilitation and closure?

During scoping information will be required on your proposals for decommissioning and closure.

Early consideration of issues relating to decommissioning and closure may have a significant bearing on the design and assessment of the project. Relevant issues include:

- a) Final land use and land form following completion of the proposed activity;
- b) Responsibility for the closure or decommissioning of the project;
- c) Proposed timing and scope of rehabilitation works, i.e. capacity for staged rehabilitation over the life of the operation.

It is recommended that you discuss closure issues with relevant stakeholders during the proponent consultation phase with the aim of providing a preliminary outline of your proposals as part of the assessment documentation. Final land form/use issues could considerably influence community response to certain proposals.



APPENDIX: 1 PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Government of Western Australia supports development that is consistent with the *State Sustainability Strategy (September 2003)* Available at: www.sustainability.dpc.wa.gov.au. Proponents are expected to give full consideration to the Principles of Sustainability and the related Environmental Protection Principles in the development of their proposals.

State Sustainability Strategy (September 2003) Principles of Sustainability

1. Long-term economic health

Sustainability recognises the needs of current and future generations for long-term economic health, innovation, diversity and productivity of the earth. (*see Environmental Protection Principle 1.*)

2. Equity and human rights

Sustainability recognises that an environment needs to be created where all people can express their full potential and lead productive lives and that significant gaps in sufficiency, safety and opportunity endanger the earth.

3. Biodiversity and ecological integrity

Sustainability recognises that all life has intrinsic value and is interconnected, and that biodiversity and ecological integrity are part of the irreplaceable life support systems upon which the earth depends. (*see Environmental Protection Principle 3.*)

4. Settlement efficiency and quality of life

Sustainability recognises that settlements need to reduce their ecological footprint (i.e. less material and energy demands and reduction in waste), while they simultaneously improve their quality of life (health, housing, employment, community...)

5. Community, regions, sense of place and heritage

Sustainability recognises the significance and diversity of community and regions for the management of the earth, and the critical importance of sense of place and heritage (buildings, townscapes, landscapes and culture) in any plans for the future.

6. Net benefit from development

Sustainability means that all development, and particularly development involving extraction of non-renewable resources, should strive to provide net environmental, social and economic benefit for future generations.

7. Common good from planning

Sustainability recognises that planning for the common good requires equitable distribution of public resources (like air, water and open space) so that ecosystem functions are maintained and a shared resource is available to all.

Environmental Protection Principles

1. ***The precautionary principle***, which states that where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation.
2. ***The principle of intergenerational equity***, which states that the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.
3. ***The principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity***, which states that conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration.
4. ***Principles relating to improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms***, which states that
 - a. Environmental factors should be included in the valuation of assets and services.
 - b. The polluter pays principle - those who generate pollution and waste should bear the cost of containment, avoidance or abatement.
 - c. The users of goods and services should pay prices based on the full life cycle costs of providing goods and services, including the use of natural resources and assets and the ultimate disposal of any wastes.
 - d. Environmental goals, having been established, should be pursued in the most cost effective way, by establishing incentive structures, including market mechanisms, which enable those best placed to maximise benefits and/or minimise costs to develop their own solutions and responses to environmental problems.
5. ***The principle of waste minimisation***, which states that all reasonable and practicable measures should be taken to minimise the generation of waste and its discharge into the environment.

Further information on the Environmental Protection Principles is available at the Environmental Protection Authority website, www.epa.wa.gov.au



APPENDIX: 2 LOCAL CONTENT

The Government of Western Australia seeks to maximize the benefits from development for Western Australians through its *Building Local Industry Policy*. [Available at: <http://www.doir.wa.gov.au/businessandindustry/7F405BB11B9642CB92334016FCB54044.asp#7676>]

Under the policy proponents are encouraged to ensure that WA businesses are afforded "full, fair and reasonable" opportunity to quote and tender for work within the State.

Assistance to proponents is available through the **Industry Capability Network of Western Australia** (ICNWA).

For further information on ICNWA please contact:

Industry Capability Network WA
PO Box 6209
East Perth WA 6892

CCI Building Level 4,
180 Hay Street
East Perth, WA
Phone: (+61 8) 9365 7623
Fax: (+61 8) 9365 7480
Email: icn@cciwa.com

For further information on Western Australia's *Building Local Industry Policy* please contact:

General Manager, Local Content Unit
Department of Industry & Resources
Level 7, 1 Adelaide Terrace
EAST PERTH WA 6004

Ph: (+61 8) 9222 0450
Fax: (+61 8) 9222 3862



APPENDIX: 3 Further General Guidance Notes on Flora and Fauna Surveying

Timing of Surveying in the Context of the Approvals Process

The relevant State government agencies acknowledge that the proponent may not complete the required flora and fauna surveying during the proponent consultation phase of the project approvals process, prior to PDD submission. However, where it is planned to undertake biological surveys prior to submission of the PDD it is strongly recommended that DEC be consulted early in the planning phase of a project, and well in advance of undertaking the surveys, in order to obtain guidance or agreement on survey scope and methodology. This may reduce the need for additional surveys to be undertaken as a result of earlier surveys being inadequately scoped or designed.

In such cases, supporting documentation (such as copies of relevant correspondence with DEC) should be provided with the PDD indicating whether the scope and design of surveys has been agreed to by the relevant agencies.

Flora, Vegetation, Ecological Communities and Fauna Surveying

The following information is provided to assist proponents in understanding how the flora and fauna impacts will be assessed and the type of information that will be required during scoping of the assessment. Questions that will be considered include:

1. Does the PDD clearly identify consultation undertaken and level of sign off (or commit to a consultation plan) with relevant government agencies?
2. Has the proponent employed (or committed to engaging) a qualified botanist/biologist (and provided the consultants report, where applicable)?
3. Does any biological surveying that has been completed conform with relevant EPA and DEC Guidelines and does it specify the extent of survey effort and appropriate survey timing?
4. Has the proponent clearly identified impacts (via an impact table) on significant flora, vegetation, fauna or ecological communities (including poorly represented vegetation) on a local & regional scale (or provided a commitment to do so)?

If a proposal outlined in a PDD is determined as one that is not appropriate for coordination under the Integrated Project Approvals System, subsequent meetings between the proponent and relevant government agencies may remain necessary. This dialogue will identify aspects such as the persons in DEC to be consulted, scope of surveys, timing of survey, management of findings and report outcomes.

Also note that in some instances the assessment may be streamlined in terms of time taken, if the methodology for survey and findings of biological surveys are peer reviewed by a recognised expert chosen by the proponent in consultation with DEC.



APPENDIX 4

Further General Guidance Notes on Public Health Impacts

Radiation - occupational and public exposure

The Radiological Council of Western Australia is the regulatory authority that should be consulted regarding all matters that deal with both ionising and non-ionising radiation whether from irradiating apparatus, prescribed electronic equipment or from non-exempt radioactive substances. The website of the Radiological Council is available for viewing at <http://www.radiologicalcouncil.wa.gov.au>

Radiation Safety on mine sites is also subject to regulation under the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*. Further information about radiation safety on mine sites can be obtained from the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (Western Australia). The Radiological Council is also required to note the requirements of the *Nuclear Waste Storage and Transportation (Prohibition) Act 1999* but is not responsible for its administration which lies with the Department of Health.

Copies of the Act and regulations (with the most recent amendments) may be viewed at the State Law Publisher website <http://www.slp.wa.gov.au>

Prior to the commencement of any operations for which the newly proposed Code of Practice and Safety Guide entitled *Radiation Protection and Radioactive Waste Management in Mining and Mineral Processing (2005)* would apply, the operator must obtain approval for the Radiation Management Plan and where applicable a Radioactive Waste Management Plan.

An operator must not commence construction, operation or decommissioning of any part of a mine, processing plant or waste management facility that is applicable to the above code without authorisation from the regulatory authority.

A Radiation Management Plan should contain:

- a. A description of the operations i.e. the source(s) and anticipated extent of exposure;

The purpose of the Radiation Management Plan is to control the exposure of employees and members of the public to radiation by the inclusion of measures that are relevant to the degree of risk. Sufficient information should be provided to allow significant exposure sources and pathways to be identified including site plans, descriptions of equipment and processes involved and estimates of radionuclide concentrations during processing.

- b. Measures that are intended to be taken to control radiation exposures including:
 - Demonstrated access to appropriate professional expertise in radiation protection;
 - A plan for monitoring radiation exposure and assessing occupational doses;
 - The provision for appropriate equipment, staffing, facilities and operational procedures;
 - Details of induction and training courses;
 - Record keeping and reporting;
 - A plan for dealing with incidents, accidents and emergencies involving exposure to radiation; and
 - A system of periodic assessment and review of the adequacy and effectiveness of procedures instituted under the Radiation management Plan to ensure currency and to facilitate a process of continual improvement; and
 - A Radiation Waste Management Plan (if applicable).

The various measures that control radiation exposure may include the provision of engineering controls such as additional ventilation and the use of shielding materials or implementing other controls such as occupancy limitations and warning signs. Continuous feedback to management, workers and front-line supervisors regarding the effectiveness of the control systems is essential.

Monitoring of radiation exposure can assist in demonstrating compliance with regulatory limits, determining doses that are received and evaluating control measures. There are several different ways that this can be achieved and professional advice is often able to provide scope for the different options.

INTEGRATED PROJECT APPROVALS SYSTEM

Detailed records of radiation monitoring and dose assessment will be required by both the regulatory authority and management for radiation workers both as individuals and as a group. This should be at least on a twelve monthly basis and should be retained for a period of at least 30 years.

All radiological accidents should be reported without delay to the regulatory authority. This should be followed up as soon as practicable by the cause of the incident or accident, its consequences and the steps taken to remedy the situation and to prevent a recurrence. Regulation 15 of the WA Radiation Safety (General) Regulations has more specific direction on the appropriate time requirements for incident reporting.

For more information on the required criteria in a Radiation Management Plan and also a Radioactive Waste Management Plan, including a more thorough description of the list provided, please see the newly proposed Code of Practice and Safety Guide entitled *Radiation Protection and Radioactive Waste Management in Mining and Mineral Processing (2005)* available from the ARPANSA website at <http://www.arpansa.gov.au>

