

Appendix 12. Glossary

Accredited process	If the project does not meet the criteria for assessment under the bilateral agreement, under section 87(4) of the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act), the Australian Environment Minister (or delegate) may accredit a state/territory process to assess matters of national environmental significance (MNES). This is done on a case-by-case basis.
Actions under EPBC Act	The glossary of terms under the EPBC Act states that <i>'an action is defined broadly in the EPBC Act and includes: a project, a development, an undertaking, an activity or a series of activities, or an alteration of any of these things. A lawful continuation of an existing use is not an action. A decision by a government body to grant an authorisation (for example, a permit or licence) or to provide funding is not an action. Actions include, but are not limited to construction, expansion, alteration or demolition of buildings, structures, infrastructure or facilities; storage or transport of hazardous materials; waste disposal; earthworks; impoundment, extraction and diversion of water; research activities; vegetation clearance; military exercises and use of military equipment; and sale or lease of land.'</i>
Advisory bodies	Individuals or organisations invited by the department to provide advice or information during the EIS process.
Affected person for a project	An affected person for a project is defined under s. 38 of the EP Act. It includes a person for the operational land or any land joining it, such as: local governments; Native title holder bodies/claimants or representative Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander bodies; landowners/landholders; mining leases; state land (state forests; state-controlled roads; national parks; conservation parks). The full list can be found in the EP Act.
Bilateral agreement	The EIS process under the EP Act has been accredited under ' An agreement between the Commonwealth and the State of Queensland under section 45 of the EPBC Act relating to environmental assessment' (the bilateral agreement). The bilateral agreement can be applied to projects that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • controlled actions requiring assessment under part 8 of the EPBC Act, and • are subject to the EIS process under the EP Act.
Chief executive	The chief executive is the person in charge of managerial matters for a government department. Chief executives (or their delegate) make decisions under legislation they are responsible for administering.
Controlling provision	It is a requirement under the EPBC Act that actions must not be carried out without prior approval if they have, or are likely to have, a significant impact on MNES. The Australian Environment Department determines if an action is, or is likely to, have a significant impact on a MNES. If so, these matters are the 'controlling provisions' for that action.
Coordinated project	A project may be declared to be a coordinated project under the SDPWO Act if a proponent applies to the Coordinator-General, and if the Coordinator-General accepts the application. In making that decision, the Coordinator-General may consider the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complex approval requirements involving local, Queensland and the Australian Governments • significant environmental effects • strategic significance to the locality, region or state, including infrastructure, economic and social benefits, capital investment or employment opportunities • significant infrastructure requirements.
Description of the project and operational land	Refer to definition for 'initial advice statement'.
EIS decision	Process under Part C, Chapter 3 of the EP Act that allows a proponent to apply for a decision on whether an EIS would be required under the EP Act for an EA application for a resource activity before submitting an EA application. This mechanism informs proponents whether an EIS would be required, without submitting upfront the substantial information required in an EA application and proposed PRC plan. At the same time, a proponent may elect to apply to prepare an EIS voluntarily, if the chief executive decides that an EIS would not be required for an EA application. However, the proponent must be able to demonstrate that they have access to the project area to enable them to carry out the necessary studies for the EIS.
Environmental authority (EA)	In Queensland, before undertaking an environmentally relevant activity, approval, in the form of an EA, is needed. Environmentally relevant activities are industrial, resource or intensive agricultural activities with the potential to release contaminants into the environment and are defined in the EP Act and regulations. They include a wide range of activities such as aquaculture, sewage treatment, cattle feed lotting, mining and other resource activities such as petroleum (which includes coal seam gas), geothermal and greenhouse gas storage activities.
Environmental	The EP Act defines environmental nuisance as unreasonable interference or likely interference with

nuisance	<p>an environmental value caused by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aerosols, fumes, light, noise, odour, particles or smoke • or an unhealthy, offensive or unsightly condition because of contamination • another way prescribed by regulation.
<i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i> (EP Act)	The EP Act is administered by the department (Department of Environment, Science and Innovation). The object of this Act is to protect Queensland's environment while allowing for development that improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends (ecologically sustainable development).
<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (EPBC Act)	The EPBC Act is administered by the Australian Environment Department. The Act provides a legal framework to protect and manage nationally and internationally important flora, fauna, ecological communities and heritage places, defined in the Act as matters of national environmental significance.
Independent Expert Scientific Committee on Coal Seam Gas and Large Coal Mining Development (IESC)	The committee is a statutory committee established by the Australian Government under the EPBC Act.
Initial advice statement (IAS)	<p>This a summary of the project, operational land, potential adverse environmental impacts of the project, and the measures proposed to avoid or minimise the adverse impacts. It is often referred to as an 'IAS' and is submitted with a voluntary EIS application, an EIS decision application and a draft TOR to meet requirements under the EP Act.</p> <p>The checklist in Appendix 5 outlines information to be provided in an IAS that the department considers essential for a decision on whether an EIS would be appropriate or required. The checklist must be completed and submitted with the relevant application.</p>
Interested person	Interested person means an interested person proposed by the proponent under section 41(3)(b) of the EP Act. This includes an unincorporated community or environmental body with a financial or non-financial interest in the local government area that the operational land is in.
Material environmental harm	<p>The EP Act defines material environmental harm (other than environmental nuisance) as environmental harm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that is not trivial or negligible in nature, extent or context • or that causes actual or potential loss or damage to property of an amount of, or amounts totalling, more than the threshold amount but less than the maximum amount • that results in costs of more than the threshold amount but less than the maximum amount being incurred in taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the harm and to rehabilitate or restore the environment to its condition before the harm. • The threshold amount is \$5000, or, if a greater amount is prescribed by regulation, the greater amount.
Mining activity	<p>A mining activity is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an activity that is an authorised activity for a mining tenement under the MR Act • or another activity that is authorised under an approval under the MR Act that grants rights over land.
No use management area (NUMA)	An area of land the subject of a PRC plan that cannot be rehabilitated to a stable condition after all relevant activities for the PRC plan carried out on the land have ended (section 112 of the EP Act).
Offsets	An activity undertaken (either voluntarily or imposed) to counterbalance significant residual impacts of activities on matters of national, state or local environmental significance. Relevant legislation including the Queensland <i>Environmental Offsets Act 2014</i> and/or the Commonwealth's EPBC Act.
Operational land	Operational land means the land on which the project is to be carried out
Person	Person includes a body of persons, whether incorporated or unincorporated
Petroleum activity	<p>A petroleum activity is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an activity that, under the <i>Petroleum Act 1923</i>, is an authorised activity for a petroleum tenure under Petroleum Act 1923 • or an activity that, under the <i>Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004</i>, is an authorised activity for a petroleum authority under that Act • or exploring for, exploiting or conveying petroleum resources under a licence, permit, pipeline licence, secondary licence or special prospecting authority granted under the Petroleum (Submerged Lands) Act 1982
Progressive rehabilitation and closure plan (PRC plan)	<p>For land the subject of a mining lease, means a PRC plan for the land that consists of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the rehabilitation planning part of the plan and • the progressive rehabilitation and closure schedule (PRCP schedule) for the plan, including any conditions imposed on the schedule
Project	A project includes a development, a proposed development, an action, a proposed action, a plan or policy
Proponent	Proponent means the person who proposes the project to which the EIS process applies
Public Interest	Means an evaluation of a proposed NUMA conducted under section 316PA of the EP Act. A PIE

Evaluation (PIE)	recommends whether the approval of a NUMA is in the public interest after considering the benefit to the community resulting from the mining project, any impacts for the environment or the community, whether there are any alternative options to approving the area as a NUMA, and weighing the benefit of the community against the impacts while having regard to alternative options Refer to EP Act section 316PA(2).
Resource activities	Resource activities include mining, petroleum (including coal seam gas), geothermal and greenhouse gas storage activities. The department is responsible for the administration and regulation of resource activities under the EP Act.
Resource projects	Resource activities that are proposed to be carried out under one or more resource tenures, in any combination, as a single integrated operation are known as resource projects
Serious environmental harm	The EP Act defines serious environmental harm as environmental harm (other than environmental nuisance) as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> irreversible, of a high impact or widespread or caused to an area of high conservation value or special significance or that causes actual or potential loss or damage to property of an amount of, or amounts totalling, more than the threshold amount or that results in costs of more than the threshold amount being incurred in taking appropriate action to prevent or minimise the harm and to rehabilitate or restore the environment to its condition before the harm.
Significant impact (under the EPBC Act)	A significant impact is defined under the EPBC Act as an impact which is important, notable, or of consequence, having regard to its context or intensity. Whether or not an action is likely to have a significant impact depends upon the sensitivity, value, and quality of the environment, which is impacted, and upon the intensity, duration, magnitude and geographic extent of the impacts. These factors are considered when deciding whether an action is likely to have a significant impact on the environment. Refer to the Australian Environment Department's Significant impact guidelines (Australian Government Department of Environment, 2013)
Significant impact on water resources	Significant impact on water resources is caused by a single action or the cumulative impact of multiple actions which would directly or indirectly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> result in a substantial change in the quantity, quality or availability of surface or ground water substantially alter ground water pressure and/ or water table levels alter the ecological character of a wetland that is state significant or a Ramsar wetland divert or impound rivers or creeks or substantially alter drainage patterns reduce biological diversity or change species composition alter coastal processes, including sediment movement or accretion, or water circulation patterns result in persistent organic chemicals, heavy metals, or other potentially harmful chemicals accumulating in the environment such that biodiversity, ecological integrity, human health or other community and economic use may be adversely affected substantially increase demand for or reduce the availability of water for human consumption. Refer to the Australian Environment Department's Significant impact guidelines (DCCEEW 2022)
Site-specific application	A site-specific application is an application for an environmental authority for ineligible Environmentally Relevant Activities under the EP Act. That is, for activities that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not able to comply with the eligibility criteria have no set eligibility criteria or are carried out as part of a coordinated project
Standard criteria	The standard criteria are defined in schedule 4 of the EP Act
Voluntary EIS	Sections 69 to 72 of the EP Act allow a proponent to apply for approval to voluntarily prepare an EIS. An application for a voluntary EIS allows a proponent to begin an EIS process for a project without having to submit an environmental authority application or PRC plan