

INTEGRATED PROJECT APPROVALS SYSTEM

For projects within the State
Development Portfolio



Department of
Industry and Resources

INTEGRATED PROJECT APPROVALS SYSTEM

Since 1 October 2004 an Integrated Project Approvals System has been operating for new development proposals within the State Development portfolio. For complex proposals where multiple approvals are required, coordination of the approval process is available through the Project Approvals Coordination Unit, based at the Department of Industry and Resources.

Benefits for Proponents

The Integrated Project Approvals System is designed to provide the following benefits for proponents:

- Improved information on Government policies and processes.
- A flexible system based on consultation and agreement.
- Up front identification of likely issues, impacts, and approvals required.
- Certainty and transparency through agreed timelines and information requirements for all approvals.
- Advisory support by a Department of Industry and Resources Project Manager.
- A coordinated, collaborative approach involving relevant decision-making agencies.
- Improved agency planning to provide timely approvals.





Project Scoping Framework

A framework for Project Scoping has been developed following recommendations of the *“Review of the Project Development Approvals System”* (2002). The recommendations aim at delivering certainty, accountability and a timely outcome for all resource related and industrial projects within the State Development portfolio.

Project Scoping will deliver more timely approval outcomes and greater certainty for project proponents, by establishing a framework whereby:

- Proponents identify key issues early, to minimise introduction of new issues later in the process.
- Agencies advise proponents of all the approvals required, based on issues identified.
- Proponents and agencies agree to a timetable for, and information requirements on, all approvals through the process of agency scoping.

Development of the timetable includes consideration of opportunities for parallel processing of approvals, and recognises the responsibilities of both agencies and proponents.

Scoping is not another approval, but a means to effectively bring forward and coordinate approvals across all approval agencies. Coordination across all approval agencies will minimise duplication and improve understanding of all aspects of the proposal.





An Outline of the Integrated Project Approvals System Process

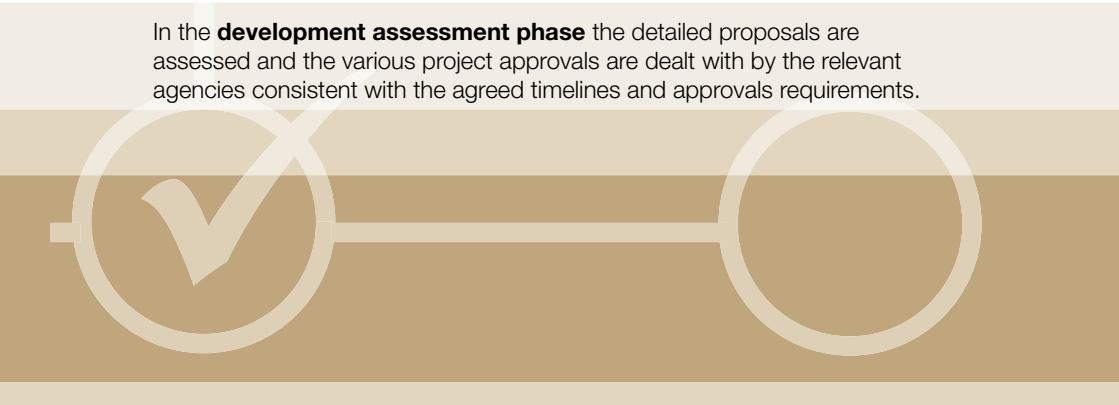
There are three phases in the process – proponent consultation, agency scoping and development assessment.

The **proponent consultation phase** is driven by the proponent and involves discussion with stakeholders including the community and government agencies to identify the issues involved with the project, likely impacts, potential means of addressing these issues and the likely approvals required. Improved Government information relating to policies and procedures is available for proponents. (see “Where Can I Obtain Further Information?”)

In the case of straightforward proposals the current practices continue - for example for mining projects, the lodging of a Mining Proposal (formerly known as a Notice of Intent) with the Department of Industry and Resources. For complex projects proponents are encouraged to develop a project outline (Project Definition Document) providing sufficient information to enable identification of the issues to be addressed, the approvals required, and the information needed for government agencies to assess the proposal.

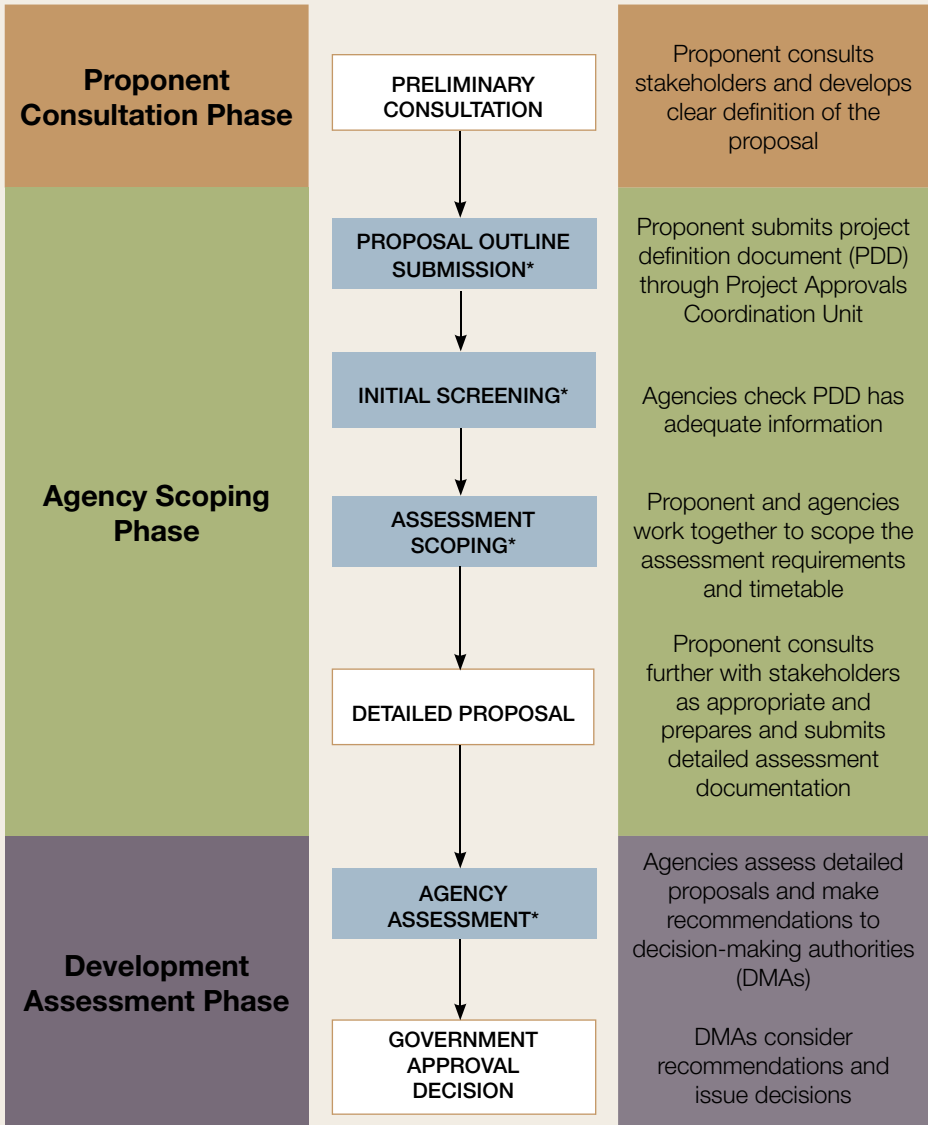
The **agency scoping phase** is a key element for complex projects and results in agreement between the proponent and the relevant Government agencies on the information required for assessment, the approvals required and the timelines for each process. The proponent then finalises detailed assessment documentation including any agreements reached through agency consultation on the management or mitigation of identified impacts.

In the **development assessment phase** the detailed proposals are assessed and the various project approvals are dealt with by the relevant agencies consistent with the agreed timelines and approvals requirements.





Outline of Integrated Project Approvals System – Complex Projects



* COORDINATION AND/OR MONITORING BY PROJECT APPROVAL COORDINATION UNIT

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 the Project Approvals Coordination Unit.



Where Can I Obtain Further Information?

The **Project Approvals Coordination Unit** within the Department of Industry and Resources oversees the implementation of scoping arrangements for new development projects. The unit coordinates the agency scoping phase and tracks the progress of development projects through the approvals processes in order to facilitate a timely and integrated approval service.

The staff of the Project Approvals Coordination Unit are:

Bill Phillips	Director
Cam Kneen	Principal Coordinator
Eric Parks	Senior Coordinator
Kylie Sinagra	Project Officer
Leanne Spencer	Project Officer

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Approvals System and Processes information is available online at:
www.doir.wa.gov.au/approvalsprocesses