

SIA Guideline 2021 – transitional arrangements

July 2021



The new Social Impact Assessment Guideline 2021 has been prepared for social impact assessment (SIA) to be applied to all State significant projects, including SSD sites, State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) and Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI). This new Guideline replaces the existing *SIA guideline for State significant mining, petroleum production and extractive industry development*, released in 2017.

Phase	Proponent project stage	General transitional arrangement	EIA parallel process stage
1	Currently considering or preparing scoping documentation to seek the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for their proposed State significant project	Refer to the SIA Guideline 2021 to guide the preparation of scoping material and future environmental assessment material. The proponent can expect that SEARs issued from 1 October 2021 will refer to the SIA Guideline 2021.	Project Scoping
			Scoping Meeting
			Prepare Scoping Report
			Request for SEARs
2	Currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with DPIE formal advice (e.g. SEARs) and expects to submit a development application and EIS shortly e.g. within 6 months.	Continue with the preparation of the EIS in accordance with the DPIE's formal advice. The proponent can apply the SIA Guideline 2021 voluntarily. Projects with SEARs issued prior to 1 October 2021 and submitting an EIS after 31 March 2022 would be required to comply with the new Guideline.	SEARs issued *
			Prepare EIS
			Lodge EIS
3	Already submitted a development application and EIS.	DPIE will progress the assessment of the submitted EIS, public exhibition submissions and the Submissions Report in accordance with the requirements of the SEARs.	Assessment prior to exhibition
			Responding to Submissions
			Determination
			Post Approvals

Table 1: SIA transitional arrangements

* The Department has discretion to update SEARs as per *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000* Schedule 2 clause 3(7). Proponents can expect that the Department may reissue SEARs, updating a reference to the SIA Guideline 2021 if SEARs have been recently issued.