What are the Guidelines?

- The revised Guidelines for the Economic Assessment of Mining and Coal Seam Gas Proposals (the Guidelines) and associated workbooks set out a detailed methodology for undertaking an economic assessment of a proposed project.

- The Guidelines require proponents to complete a cost benefit analysis to estimate the net present value of the project to NSW and a local effects analysis to assess the likely economic impacts of the project on the local community. An economic assessment is one of the requirements of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).


- The revised Guidelines do not reduce environmental standards or community consultation requirements.

Why is there a need for the Guidelines?

- The new Guidelines provide more detail to applicants and outline methodologies for delivering an economic assessment. This will ensure future economic assessments provide more consistent and robust information to help government and the public weigh up the economic, community and environmental concerns associated with a project.

- The new Guidelines have a greater focus on the effects that a project may have on the local community and provide a methodology for assessing these impacts.

When will the new Guidelines be used?

- EIS submissions for all new major mining and coal seam gas proposals will need to comply with the new Guidelines once they are finalised. Applications that are very close to being lodged may be submitted under the previous guide.

- The need to comply with the Guidelines will be set out in the environmental assessment requirements, which are issued to applicants at the start of the planning process and must be addressed in their Environmental Impact Statement.

- In determining the outcome of a development application, the consent authority will take into consideration a number of factors that are set out in Section 79C of the EP&A Act. These include consideration of the public interest and the likely impacts of the development on the local community, including the environmental, social and economic impacts.
How will economic assessment reports be reviewed against the new Guidelines?

- The Department of Planning and Environment is establishing a panel of independent reviewers with expertise in undertaking cost benefit analysis for the resources sector.
- The panel will advise the Department of Planning and Environment and the consent authority as to whether the economic assessment:
  - has been prepared in accordance with the Guidelines
  - provides adequate information to validate the outcomes of the report
  - is ‘fit for purpose’ for the project being proposed
  - has any other matters relevant to the consideration of the economic benefits of the development of the resource.

How will the panel be chosen?

- The panel will be overseen by an inter-agency Government committee that will be responsible for assessing whether panel members have the appropriate skills and experience to review the economic assessments.
- Panel members will be required to disclose any real, perceived or potential conflicts of interest. These will be taken into account in selecting a reviewer for a particular project’s economic appraisal.

How will applicants benefit from having new Guidelines?

- The revised Guidelines will bring greater clarity to what information is required and the methods to be used in the development of an economic assessment.
- Applicants will be better able to plan their appraisals to focus on the information that is required by decision-makers and the community. This will save on costs and avoid unnecessary work.
- Economic assessments prepared using the revised Guidelines will provide better and more complete information to enable decision-makers to weigh up economic considerations and the community and environmental concerns as part of their determination of a development application.
Guidelines for the Economic Assessment of Mining and Coal Seam Gas Proposals

Frequently asked questions for organisations

How is the Government consulting with stakeholders?

- The Guidelines and their associated workbooks will be on public exhibition from 14 October 2015 to 24 November 2015.

How can I have my say about what is being proposed?

- We welcome your feedback on the use of these new Guidelines to evaluate the economic impact of a mining or coal seam coal proposal on the local community and the state.
- Submissions can be made up to **24 November 2015**.
- by mail to: Deputy Secretary, Growth, Design & Programs Division, Department of Planning and Environment, GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001.
- Submissions will be made public in line with the Department of Planning and Environment’s objective to promote an open and transparent planning system. If you do not want your name published, please state this clearly at the top of your submission.

What happens next?

- At the end of the exhibition period we will review all submissions and then prepare a report for the Minister for Planning.
- Once the Minister makes a decision about the proposed changes, we will publish an update on our website: [www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals). We will also provide an update to anyone who made a submission.

Where can I get more information?

- Call our Information Centre on 1300 305 695. If English isn’t your first language, please call 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in your language and then request to be connected to our Information Centre on 1300 305 695.
- Email us at [information@planning.nsw.gov.au](mailto:information@planning.nsw.gov.au)