

Draft Technical Notes supporting the Guidelines for the Economic Assessment of Mining and Coal Seam Gas Proposals

○ Frequently Asked Questions

September 2017

What is being exhibited?

- Draft technical notes have been developed to support the Guidelines for the Economic Assessment of Mining and Coal Seam Gas Proposals (the guidelines). The Department of Planning and Environment (the Department) is seeking feedback on the draft technical notes from 11 September 2017 to 23 October 2017.

What are the Guidelines for the Economic Assessment of Mining and Coal Seam Gas Proposals?

- The guidelines are in place to ensure companies applying for new or modified mining and coal seam gas projects provide clear, consistent and robust information to support claims made in their environmental impact statement.
- The Department released the final Guidelines for the Economic Assessment of Mining and Coal Seam Gas Proposals in December 2015 following community consultation.
- The guidelines are a major component of the whole-of-government integrated mining policy.
- The integrated mining policy aims to improve the regulation of mining and provide the community with better information about proposals. They also assist applicants meet requirements of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act).
- The guidelines ensure the Department can complete a robust economic assessment of mining and coal seam gas proposals for the state and local community. This will result in higher quality and more consistent assessments and help ensure that the economic assessment process is clear, consistent and transparent.

How do the technical notes relate to the guidelines?

- The guidelines were split into two parts in response to stakeholder feedback received during the exhibition process:
 - **The guidelines** - outline the approach to cost-benefit analysis and local effects analysis.
 - **Technical notes** - provide detailed guidance on how to consider a range of environmental, heritage, social and transport related impacts. The technical notes supplement the guidelines.

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How do the guidelines and the technical notes fit within the overall environmental impact assessment (EIA) process?

- State significant development (SSD) resource projects are subject to an integrated 'triple bottom line' merit assessment of social, environmental and economic impacts. The economic assessment is one of a range of specialist inputs to the overall environmental impact assessment.
- The Department of Planning and Environment has produced three key documents to ensure assessments are informed by robust data and transparent analysis including the:
 1. Guidelines for the Economic Assessment of Mining and Coal Seam Gas Proposals
 2. draft technical notes
 3. SIA guidelines for state significant mining, petroleum production and extractive industry development.
- To ensure consistency and reduce duplication in the environmental impact statement (EIS) the data collected to satisfy the Guidelines for the Economic Assessment of Mining and Coal Seam Gas Proposals can be used for the cost-benefit analysis, the local effects analysis and the SIA.
- The Department is currently undertaking a review of the environmental impact assessment process for SSD projects in NSW (the EIA Improvement Project).
- The purpose of the environmental impact assessment is to coordinate all required studies to ensure relevant data and analysis is integrated (rather than duplicated), and consolidate their findings to support effective consideration of social, economic and environmental impacts.
- As with all SSD proposals, the consent authority will typically be the Planning Assessment Commission, operating under delegation by the Minister for Planning.
- The Planning Assessment Commission must consider a range of matters when determining an application. These are outlined in section 79C of the EP&A Act and can be summarised as:
 - the provisions of environmental planning instruments (including draft instruments), development control plans, planning agreements, and the EP&A Regulation
 - the environmental, social and economic impacts of the development
 - the suitability of the site
 - any submissions
 - the public interest and the objects of the Act, which include encouraging ecologically sustainable development (ESD).

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What engagement around the draft technical notes has taken place to date

- Engagement with a broad cross-section of stakeholders took place during 2016. Their feedback has been taken into consideration in preparing these draft technical notes.
- Representatives from the Department's Economics and Land Use Forecasting Unit attended the draft SIA guidelines workshops held in early 2017.

What are the next steps?

- The Department will consider the submissions we receive during this consultation period in finalising the technical notes.
- A drop-in information session will be held on 18 September 2017.

How can I find out more and comment on the draft technical notes?

- Submissions on the technical notes will close on 23 October 2017.
- You can view and make a submission:
 - Online at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals
 - by mail to:
Director, Economics and Land Use Forecasting
GPO Box 39, Sydney, NSW 2001
- All submissions will be made public in line with the Department'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. Before making a submission, please read our privacy statement at: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy.

Where can I find out more?

- 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.
- A drop-in information session will be held on 18 September 2017.

Details of the session:

Date: Monday 18 September 2017

Time: 12pm to 4pm (please drop-in at any time between these hours)

Location: 320 Pitt Street, Sydney, NSW 2001