

GUIDE TO USING THE IDAS DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FORMS

Guide 4

Environmentally relevant activities (ERAs)

This guide has been prepared to assist applicants and local governments to determine if an application requires assessment for an environmentally relevant activity (ERA).

What is an ERA?

An ERA is an activity that has been identified as one that will, or has the potential to, release contaminants into the environment causing environmental harm.

If an application involves an activity that is an ERA, the application must be assessed against the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act).

The designated administering authority for the activity carries out this assessment.

Certain ERAs are not assessable against the EP Act. Instead these activities are self-assessable against an applicable code of environmental compliance. Refer to the EPA website at www.epa.qld.gov.au/ecoaccess/business and industry/codes of environmental compliance/for the codes of environmental compliance to determine if your proposed ERA is self-assessable.

The administering authority for an ERA

Depending on the type of the ERA, the administering authority for a particular ERA could be the Environmental Protection Authority, a local government or the Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries (DPI&F).

The local government is the administering authority for devolved ERAs. Devolved ERAs are annotated by an “*” in schedule 1 of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 1998*.

The responsibility for administering piggeries or feedlots has been delegated to DPI&F.

If the application involves more than one (1) ERA and the ERAs have different administering authorities, the EPA becomes the administering authority for **all** the ERAs proposed in the application.

The administering authority as assessment manager or concurrence agency

If an application for an ERA also requires assessment by the local government, that local government is the assessment manager for the application and the administering authority responsible for assessing the ERA under chapter 4 of the EP Act will be a concurrence agency for the application.

Where the development is proposed on strategic port land, the Port Authority is the assessment manager for the application. This is despite whether or not the use is consistent or inconsistent with the approved land use plan for the Port.

Where the proposed development is within a local government area but there is no assessment against the planning scheme, the administering authority for the ERA(s) will usually be the alternative assessment manager. The exception occurs when the application involves dredging in a watercourse. In this instance, the Department of Natural Resources and Water (NRW) is the assessment manager for the application.

Assessable ERAs may be either “on premises” or “mobile or temporary”

A material change of use for an ERA as described below is assessable -

- the start of a new ERA; or
- an increase in the threshold of an ERA; or
- the re-establishment of an ERA that has been abandoned; or
- a material change in scale or intensity to an existing ERA.

Mobile or temporary ERAs

A mobile and temporary ERA means an ERA (other than a mining or petroleum activity) or an activity that is dredging material, extracting rock or other material or the incinerating of waste –

- carried out at various premises using transportable plant or equipment, including a vehicle; and

- that does not result in the building of any permanent structures or any physical change to the landform at the premises (*other than minor alterations solely necessary for access and setup including for example access ways, footings and temporary storage areas*); and
- carried out at one (1) location and -
 - for less than 28 days in a calendar year but, other than for regulated waste transport, for not more than 6 times in a calendar year; or
 - the activity is necessarily associated with and is exclusively used in the construction or demolition phase of a project.

ERAs not assessed through IDAS

Mining and petroleum activities are not assessed through IDAS. ERAs for activities authorised under a mining or petroleum lease under the *Mineral Resources Act 1989* are processed using a separate process in the EP Act, requiring separate application forms available from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

All other ERAs, both assessable and self-assessable, are referred to as 'Chapter 4 activities'.

Registering ERAs

To carry out an ERA (other than a mining or petroleum activity), a person must have a registration certificate for the activity. The registration is required to record the details of the operator and to determine if the person is suitable to carry out the ERA.

The administering authority issues the registration certificate.

The registration form is available from the EPA, the local government or DPI&F and a fee is payable.

Quarry material allocation notice

Evidence of resource entitlement (a quarry material allocation notice) must be obtained from NRW under the *Water Act 2000*, before a development application for quarrying in a freshwater watercourse or lake can be lodged (ERA 19 or 20).

Proof of the allocation notice must be submitted with Part A of the IDAS Application Form 1. Under s 3.2.1(5) of the IPA, without this information the application cannot be accepted as properly made.

Similarly, a quarry material allocation notice under the *Coastal Protection and Management Act 1995* must be obtained from the EPA for taking quarry material from State coastal land. State coastal land generally refers to land in a coastal management district that is within reserves, unallocated State land or other State controlled land.

The State agency administering the resource for which evidence is required should be contacted in relation to their requirements prior to lodging the development application.

For more information

For more information or to submit completed applications contact the local government or –

Ecoaccess Customer Service Unit, Environmental Protection Agency
PO Box 155
BRISBANE ALBERT STREET Q 4002

Telephone: 1300 368 326
Facsimile: (07) 3115 9600
Eco.access@epa.qld.gov.au

EPA Guidelines, Information Sheets and registration forms are available from the EPA website at www.epa.qld.gov.au under Ecoaccess/ business and industry or from the Ecoaccess Customer Service Unit.

For technical advice about non-devolved and non-delegated ERAs, contact the EPA regional offices. Refer to the IPA website at www.ipa.qld.gov.au under Development Assessment / IDAS referral agencies, for contact details.

Summary list of ERAs

Listed below is a summary of ERAs. If you think your proposal could be one of these, refer to the EP Regulation that contains the complete list of ERAs and thresholds.

Local government, the EPA and DPI&F (for piggeries and feedlots) can also assist with more detailed lists of ERAs and determining ERAs applicable to your application.

Completing the IDAS application form – Part G and the Referrals Checklist

If your application involves an ERA and you have determined the relevant threshold and level, complete the details in Part G of the application form.

SUMMARY LIST OF ERAs

Aquaculture and agricultural activities

- Aquaculture
- Cattle feedlot
- Pig farming
- Poultry farming (more than 1000 birds)

Chemical, coal and petroleum products activities

- Alcohol distilling (more than 2500L/year)
- Chemical manufacturing, processing or mixing (200t or more/year)
- Chemical storage (capacity more than 10m³)
- Coke producing
- Gas production
- Paint manufacturing (10,000L or more/year)
- Crude oil or petroleum product storage (capacity of 10 000L or more)
- Oil refining or processing
- Fuel gas refining or processing

Community infrastructure and services

- Crematorium
- Sewage treatment (capacity of 21 people or more)

Electricity, fuel burning and water supply activities

- Municipal water treatment plant
- Fuel burning (capability of burning 500kg or more of fuel/hour)
- Power station (consuming fuel at rated capacity of 10MW electrical or more)

Extractive activities and mining

- Dredging material
- Extracting rock or other material
- Mineral exploration or mining (*exempt from IDAS*)
- Petroleum exploration or prospecting (*exempt from IDAS*)
- Screening etc. rock or other material (more than 50t/year)
- Petroleum exploration or processing (*exempt from IDAS*)

Food processing

- Beverage production (non-alcoholic 200 000L or more per year, alcoholic 400 000L/year)
- Edible oil processing (capacity 1000t or more/year)
- Flour milling (capacity 1000t or more/year)
- Meat processing (capacity 1000t or more/year)
- Milk processing (capacity 200t or more/year)
- Seafood processing (capacity more than 100t/year)
- Smoking, drying or curing works (capacity 200t or more/year)
- Sugar milling or refining
- Bottling or canning (capacity 200t or more/year)

Fabricated metal product activities

- Abrasive blasting
- Boiler making or engineering
- Metal surface coating
- Metal forming
- Metal recovery
- Motor vehicle workshop

Metal products activities

- Metal foundry
- Metal works (capacity more than 10t/year)
- Mineral processing (capacity more than 1000t/year)

Miscellaneous activities

- Animal housing
- Battery manufacturing
- Crushing, milling or grinding (capacity 5000t or more/year)
- Mushroom growing substrate manufacturing
- Pet, stock or aquaculture food manufacturing
- Plaster manufacturing (capacity 200t or more/year)
- Pulp or paper manufacturing (capacity more than 100t/year)
- Rendering (capacity more than 10t/year)
- Plastic manufacturing (capacity more than 1t/year)
- Printing
- Soil conditioner manufacturing (capacity more than 200t/year)
- Tanning
- Textile manufacturing
- Tobacco processing
- Tyre manufacturing or retreading

Non-metallic mineral product manufacture

- Asbestos products
- Asphalt manufacturing
- Cement manufacturing
- Clay or ceramic products (capacity more than 200t/year)
- Concrete batching (capacity more than 100t/year)
- Glass or glass fibre manufacturing (capacity more than 200t/year)
- Mineral wool or ceramic fibre manufacturing

Recreational and sporting activities

- Motor racing

Sawmilling, woodchipping and wooden product manufacturing

- Chemically treating timber
- Sawmilling or woodchipping (capacity more than 500t/year)
- Wooden product manufacturing (capacity more than 1t/year)

Transport and maritime services

- Boat maintenance or repair
- Heliport
- Port (other than an airport)
- Railway facility
- Marina or seaplane mooring
- Stockpiling, loading bulk goods (more than 100t/day)

Waste management

- Waste disposal facility
- Incinerating waste
- Battery recycling
- Chemical or oil recycling
- Drum reconditioning
- Tyre recycling
- Recycling/reprocessing reg. waste
- Waste transfer station (capacity 20 000t or more/year)
- Regulated waste transport
- Regulated waste storage
- Regulated waste treatment