

Information Sheet: Environment Effects Statement

What is an Environment Effects Statement?

When a proposed project could potentially have significant environmental effects, a written referral is sent to the Minister for Planning requesting a decision on whether an Environment Effects Statement (EES) is required.

An EES usually contains:

- A description of the proposed development
- An outline of public and stakeholder consultation undertaken during investigations and the issues raised
- A description of the existing environment that may be affected
- Predictions of significant environmental effects of the proposal and relevant alternatives
- Proposed measures to avoid, minimise or manage adverse environmental effects
- A proposed program for monitoring and managing environmental effects during project implementation.

Who decides if an EES is required?

Following referral by the project proponent, the Minister for Planning will decide, usually within 20 working days, if an EES is required. The Fingerboards Project is expected to require an EES.

What does an EES cover?

The matters to be investigated and documented in an EES are set out in the 'scoping requirements' issued by the Minister. These are different for each project and depend on the project and its environmental risks.

Draft scoping requirements are prepared following input from the proponent and other agencies. These are released by the State Government for public comment for at least 15 business days before the final scoping requirements are published.

This step ensures that all initial technical and community input is used to set the scope of the EES investigations.

Who prepares the EES?

The proponent, Kalbar Resources, is required to prepare all EES documentation, as well as a study program and consultation plan consistent with the scoping requirements.

A Technical Reference Group, consisting of government agencies, local government and statutory authorities, is appointed to provide advice to the proponent and the Department during the preparation of the EES.

How does the community get involved?

A Community Engagement Plan is required as part of the EES.

A minimum of four information sessions is usually required, coinciding with key information becoming available for public review and comment. These will be held in locations and at times that best suit community members.

All relevant information and reports will be made available at key stages through information bulletins, on-line and local media. Public input throughout this process is encouraged to ensure that all community issues are properly identified and addressed.

How is the final decision made on the EES?

When the Minister is satisfied that the EES is suitable, it is released for public comment for between 20 and 30 business days. During this time, the public can make written submissions.

The Minister for Planning may appoint an independent inquiry to evaluate the effects of the project.

Submitters can request to be heard at the inquiry which is convened and run by Planning Panels Victoria.

As the final stage of the EES process, the Minister prepares an Assessment considering all relevant information including the EES documents, public submissions, the proponent's response and the inquiry report.

The Assessment includes findings on the environmental effects, and may conclude that the project:

- will have an acceptable level of environmental effects; or
- will not have an acceptable level of environmental effects; or
- would need major modifications and/or further investigations to establish that acceptable outcomes would be achieved.

Enquire, comment or join the mailing list by calling:

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