

Information Guideline



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND CONSERVATION

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GUIDELINE FOR PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL INCEPTION REPORT.

INTRODUCTION

The Director of Environment determines if an activity is a Level 3 activity after receiving notification of intention to carry out preparatory works.

This Information Guideline is intended to assist prospective proponents of development activities in Papua New Guinea to meet their legal obligations under *Section 52* of the *Environment Act 2000* (the "Act"). The Act requires a person or company that intends to carry out a proposed Level 3 activity to prepare and submit an Environmental Inception Report.

This requirement should be fulfilled prior to carrying out a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment and submitting an Environmental Impact Statement.

In submitting the Environmental Inception Report, a proponent must list the issues to be covered in an Environmental Impact Statement, which will be generated as a result of a thorough environmental impact assessment process. The Environmental Inception Report process is intended to identify, at an early stage, all the potential environmental impacts that need to be addressed. It also assists with commencement of the essential consultation process with all relevant stakeholders.

This is an Inception Report used to identify impacts and issues. It is in fact commencement of the Environment Impact Assessment process and drafting of the Environmental Impact Statement

The Environmental Inception Report should comply substantially with the requirements of this Guideline. Approval of the content of the Environmental Inception Report may only be granted if ¹DEC is satisfied that the Report lists all the relevant issues relating to the potential impacts of the proposed activity on the environment.

It should be noted that the Environmental Inception Report is effectively a scoping document for the preparation of the formal Environmental Impact Statement, which is the key document, used to assess whether or not an "Approval-In-Principle" is granted by the Minister.

The suggested layout for the Environmental Inception Report given below is intended to make generation and submission of the final Environment Impact Statement an easier and more consistent process.

If the information previously submitted in accordance with the requirement for *Notification of Preparatory Work on Level 2 or Level 3 activities* (refer to DEC Publication No. *IB-ENV/01/2004*) has altered, it is important that DEC is notified of those changes prior to the submission of the Environmental Inception Report.

¹ Department of Environment and Conservation

CONTENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INCEPTION REPORT

The applicant should provide detail answers to all areas below that are relevant to the particular proposal.

1. Introduction.

Include information on the proposed development activity and its objectives. Provide description of the activity and anticipated bio-physical and socio-economic impacts as well as potential benefits to be derived from the project.

2. Purpose of the Development.

Provide information to verify if the development activity is in the best interest of all Papua New Guineans and therefore in line with the PNG Government's overall development strategy and planning guidelines.

3. Viability of the Project.

Include details on compatibility of proposal with Government's development strategy, suitability of project to district, provincial and national levels, financing, etc.

4. Description of the Proposed Development.

Provide a summary of the proposed project in less than 500 words.

5. Development Timetable.

Include details of the project schedule as well as expected dates on which other relevant statutory approvals will be secured.

6. Bio-physical Environmental Issues.

Provide details of both on and off-site bio-physical environmental issues relating to the proposed activity and the mitigatory measures.

For physical environment, cover -

- Air emission,
- Water extraction and wastewater discharge,
- Land contamination, solid waste disposal, etc.,
- Noise emission.

For biological environment cover -

- Flora (vegetation clearance),
- Fauna (displacement of fauna, impacts, etc.)

7. Socio-Economic Issues.

Provide details of all socio-economic issues and their mitigatory measures.

This section has a special significance in the PNG context, particularly if the proposed development is located in rural areas

At this planning stage of the proposed activity, certain aspects that need to be identified now and then covered more fully in the Environmental Impact Assessment process and documented in the subsequent Environmental Impact Statement are –

- delineation of project impact area,
- distinguish differing levels of impact within the project area,
- define the different "local community" groups that may be affected by the project and should be included in the consultation/negotiation process (e.g., "land/resource owners" versus "downstream" communities).

For ease of differentiation, these socio-economic impacts should be separated into two distinct groups (Group A & Group B) to make it clear which impacts will occur as a direct or indirect result of the project. This also assists in the delineation of what mitigative measures can be reasonably addressed under a DEC approval and what areas are the responsibilities of other levels of Government (i.e., National, Provincial and Local Level Governments).

Group (A) Impacts

Group (A) impacts are those that can be identified and addressed by the DEC approval process. They arise directly from adverse impacts upon the bio-physical environment as caused by the development.

Some of these issues include but not limited to -

- degradation in air or water quality,
- increased noise levels,
- land contamination,
- loss of food sources,
- habitat loss , etc.

Group (B) Impacts

Group (B) impacts are secondary socio-economic effects that are reasonably expected to manifest themselves and are normally best handled by the responsible National, Provincial or Local Level Government agencies.

Examples of these issues are -

- social structure
- law and order,
- migration and population issues,
- inadequate infrastructure concerns,
- historical and cultural issues, etc.

NOTE:

The consultants engaged to prepare input for *Section (6)* and *Section (7)*, above should **jointly** review their inputs so that each is aware of any information that will or may affect each others findings/submissions.

8. Availability of Baseline Information/Data.

Include details of the baseline information/data available on aspects identified in *Section (6)* and *Section (7)*, above. If baseline information are not available, identify where and how these data would be obtained.

9. Site Selection.

Provide details if alternative sites were considered and why and how the proposed site was chosen.

10. Qualification of Environmental Consultants.

Provide details including Resume of consultants that have been or will be appointed to carry out the Environmental Impact Assessment study and prepare the Environmental Impact Statement. Information on their experience in PNG (if any) or other similar cultural contexts should be submitted.

COPIES TO BE LODGED.

THE PROPONENT IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE TEN (10) COPIES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL INCEPTION REPORT DURING LODGMENT OF THE APPLICATION TO ENABLE THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT TO ASSESS THE REPORT.

Lodge the above submission with:

Director of Environment
Department of Environment
and Conservation,
P.O. Box 6601, BOROKO,
National Capital District,
Papua New Guinea.

Attention: First Assistant Secretary
Environment Division