



Information Sheet

Obtaining a development approval for an environmentally relevant activity (ERA)

This information sheet should be read in conjunction with the information sheet "Glossary of terms".

Overview

In 1997, the Queensland Government introduced the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (IPA). The IPA established a new system for assessing and placing conditions on development applications in Queensland.

This system is known as IDAS — the Integrated Development Assessment System. IDAS aims to co-ordinate and integrate the assessment and conditioning powers of government agencies responsible for administering a range of legislation dealing with development approvals.

Glossary

For an explanation of the terms used to describe development approval processes and environmental management issues in Queensland, refer to Information Sheet: *Glossary of terms*.

Environmental Protection Act

One of the first pieces of legislation incorporated into IDAS was the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (EP Act). The EP Act and *Environmental Protection Regulation 1998* (EP Reg) previously provided the 'Licensing and Approval' process for activities that could potentially harm the environment.

Certain activities known as Environmentally Relevant Activities (ERAs) are now assessed (and have conditions placed on them) through the IDAS process. ERAs are defined under the EP Reg.

Following the successful completion of the IDAS process, a development approval may be issued. Development approvals replace the licences and approvals previously issued under the EP Act.

Other parts of the EP Act are also incorporated into IDAS but are not covered in this information sheet. For further information, please contact the Health and Regulatory Services Section of Mackay Regional Council.

Environmentally relevant activities

ERAs are activities that will, or have the potential to, release contaminants into the environment and the contaminants may cause environmental harm. This information sheet contains a list of the ERAs specified in the EP Reg.

ERAs may be divided into two categories:

- Assessable ERAs – ERAs located at a premises or mobile and temporary ERAs; and
- Self-assessable ERAs – ERAs that are self-assessable against a code of environmental compliance.

When will I need this information?

You will need this information when completing an *IDAS Form 1 Development Application* in particular Part G and the Referrals Checklist.

Will IDAS apply to my proposal?

A development approval under IDAS is required for assessable ERAs. The Health and Regulatory Services Section of Mackay Regional Council will carry out the assessment against the EP Act. Assessable ERAs are listed in this information sheet.

An ERA at a premises requires an application if you are:

- Starting a new ERA on premises¹;
- Re-establishing on premises of an ERA that has been abandoned; or
- Changing an existing ERA, which amounts to a material change in the intensity or scale of an ERA.

If you are doing one of the above, you are required to submit an application for a “material change of use” for an ERA. If you are intending to conduct a mobile or temporary ERA, you are required to submit an application for “development” for an ERA.

The Health and Regulatory Services Section of Mackay Regional Council will be responsible for assessing and conditioning particular ERAs (the administering authority). The list of ERAs identifies the activities that Mackay Regional Council administers.

NOTE: If you are unsure which ERA applies to your proposal, please contact the Health and Regulatory Services Section of Mackay Regional Council.

Where do I apply?

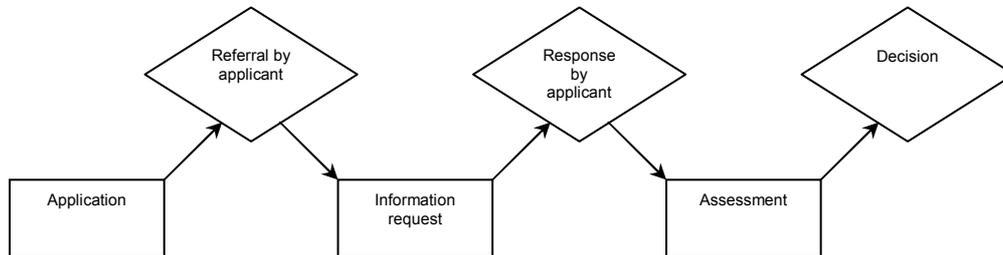
Development applications are lodged with the assessment manager. If the only assessable development in the application is the ERA, the administering authority is the assessment manager. The assessment manager varies depending on what other assessable development is involved in the development proposal. Where the administering authority is not the assessment manager, it is the referral agency.

NOTE: If you are unsure whether your development proposal is assessable against a planning scheme, contact the Planning Section of Mackay Regional Council.

¹ The start of a new ERA includes a change to an existing ERA, that amounts to an increase in the ERA level or threshold.

What steps does IDAS include?

The IDAS process, which assessable ERAs must go through, is illustrated in the diagram below. Referral agencies may have assessment fees in addition to any application fees required by the assessment manager. Contact the assessment manager to find out the cost of application fees.



Please note: Before lodging your application for a development approval, it is advisable to organise a pre-lodgement meeting to discuss any possible issues or concerns that either you or the relevant agencies may have.

This is an opportunity for all parties to clarify roles and responsibilities at the start of the process.

Pre-lodgement meetings are designed to achieve a more streamlined processing of your application by the assessment team.

Registration is required to operate assessable ERAs

People who intend to operate ERAs, for which a development approval is sought, are also required to obtain a registration certificate under the EP Act. The person who is carrying out the ERA must hold the registration.

An application for registration is made to the same section of Mackay Regional Council that is responsible for assessing and conditioning the ERA in IDAS – the Health and Regulatory Services Section (administering authority).

If a person submits their registration application within 10 business days of the development application being approved, there is no application fee required for the registration application. However, a person may wish to make application for the development approval and obtain the registration later, just prior to the activity commencing. This may save money if the construction of the activity will take more than one year.

More information about the requirements for registration is available from the Health and Regulatory Services Section of Mackay Regional Council.

Penalties

It is an offence under the IPA to operate an ERA without an appropriate development approval. Also, it is an offence to carry out that activity without a registration certificate.

Further information

Through the Health and Regulatory Services Section of Mackay Regional Council you can access customer support services regarding development permits. You can do this in person or by telephoning 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529).

ERA No.	Activity	Activity level	Development approval required	Self-assessable	Maximum annual fee (\$)
4	Poultry farming – farming poultry, including egg and fertile egg production, the rearing of hatchlings, starter pullets, layers and poultry for meat in facilities having a total holding capacity of: (a) more than 1 000, but less than 200 000, birds. (b) 200 000 birds or more.	2	Yes	No	—
		1			400.00
11	Crude oil or petroleum product storing – storing crude oil or a petroleum product in tanks or containers having a combined total storage capacity of: (a) 10 000 L or more but less than 500 000 L.	2	Yes	No	—
		1			400.00
14	Crematorium – cremating human, pet or animal remains.	1	Yes	No	400.00
20	Extracting rock or other material – extracting rock (other than rock mined in block or slab form for building purposes), sand (other than foundry sand), clay (other than clay used for its ceramic properties, kaolin or bentonite), gravel, loam or other material (other than gravel, loam or other material under a mining tenement or petroleum authority) from a pit or quarry using plant or equipment having a design capacity of: (a) not more than 5 000 t a year.	2	Yes/No	Yes/No	—
		1			400.00
22	Screening etc. materials – screening, washing, crushing, grinding, milling, sizing or separating material extracted from the earth (other than under a mining tenement or petroleum authority) or by dredging using plant or equipment having a design capacity of: (a) more than 50 t, but less than 5 000 t, a year.	2	Yes	No	—
		1			650.00
23	Abrasive blasting – commercially cleaning equipment or structures using a stream of abrasives: (a) if the activity is carried out at a permanent location. (b) if the activity is an itinerant activity. (c) if the activity is carried out at a permanent location and includes an itinerant activity.	1	Yes/No	Yes/No	400.00
		1			650.00
		1			650.00
24	Boiler making or engineering – commercial boiler making, electrical machine manufacturing or building or assembly of agricultural equipment, motor vehicles, trains, trams or heavy machinery.	2	Yes	No	—
25	Metal surface coating – commercial spray painting (other than spray painting motor vehicles), powder coating, enamelling, electroplating, anodising or galvanising in works having an annual throughput of metal products of: (a) less than 2 000 t. (b) 2 000 t or more but less than 10 000 t.	1	Yes	No	450.00
		1			600.00
26	Metal forming – pressing, forging, extending, extruding or rolling metal, forming metal into plate, wire or rods or fabricating sheet metal.	2	Yes	No	—
27	Metal recovery – commercially operating a scrap metal yard or dismantling automotive or mechanical equipment, including debonding brake or clutch components.	1	Yes	No	500.00
28	Motor vehicle workshop – operating a workshop or mobile workshop in the course of which motor vehicle mechanical or panel repairs are carried out in the course of a commercial or municipal enterprise (other than on a farm or under a mining tenement) or on a commercial basis.	1	Yes/No	Yes/No	500.00

43	Animal housing – commercially operating a boarding or breeding kennel, dog pound, greyhound training facility or veterinary clinic in which animals are boarded other than overnight for treatment.	2	Yes	No	—
47	Pet, stock or aquaculture food manufacturing – commercially manufacturing or processing pet, stock or aquaculture food (other than an abattoir, slaughter house, rendering works or animal glue or gelatine works).	1	Yes	No	500.00
51	Plastic manufacturing – commercially manufacturing plastic or plastic products in works having a design production capacity of: (a) more than 1 t, but less than 5 t, a year. (b) 5 t or more a year.	1 1	Yes	No	300.00 450.00
52	Printing – commercially screen printing or printing (other than photocopying and photographic printing), including advertising material, magazines, newspapers, packaging and stationery.	2	Yes	No	—
59	Asphalt manufacturing – manufacturing asphalt.	2	Yes	No	—
62	Concrete batching – producing concrete or a concrete product by mixing cement, sand, rock, aggregate or other similar materials in works (including mobile works) having a design production capacity of more than 100 t a year.	1	Yes	No	650.00
65	Motor racing – (a) conducting a motor race other than an international motor race.	2	Yes	No	—
68	Wooden product manufacturing – commercially manufacturing or fabricating a wooden product, including, for example, a product made by a cabinet-maker, joiner or other woodworker, in a facility having a design production capacity of more than 1 t a year.	2	Yes	No	—
69	Boat maintaining or repairing facility – operating a commercial facility for maintaining or repairing any type of boat or inboard or outboard marine engine.	1	Yes	No	650.00
70	Heliport – operating a facility for landing helicopters (other than a facility forming part of an aerodrome used for general aviation or for sole use in emergency circumstances)	2	Yes	No	—
73	Marina or seaplane mooring – operating a commercial marina or facility for mooring seaplanes, including any land-based buildings or works used in association with the marina or mooring: (a) for less than 20 berths or moorings (b) for 20 or more, but less than 100, berths or moorings (c) for 100 or more berths or moorings	2 1 1	Yes	No	— 300.00 500.00
76	Incinerating waste – operating a waste incineration facility for incinerating: (a) vegetation (b) clean paper or cardboard	2 2	Yes	No	— —