

Victoria's EIA framework

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Acts

Formal EIA can be undertaken under the following Acts:

- *Environment Effects Act 1978*
 - Environment Effects Statement
 - No EES with conditions
 - No EES
- *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009*
 - Impact Management Plan
 - Comprehensive Impact Statement
 - Available only to project proponents that are 'public authorities'
- Administered by the Minister for Planning

Objectives of EIA in Victoria

Written, but uncodified:

- To assess projects capable of having a significant effect on the environment
- To inform decision making under environmental, planning and other legislative standards
- Provide for public consultation

Set out in:

- Minister's Guidelines under the *Environment Effects Act 1978*
- Objectives of *Major Transport Projects Facilitation Act 2009*

Objectives of EIA in Victoria (cont.)

Successful EIA should respond to the broad objectives of planning and environmental law that apply in Victoria:

- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (C'wealth)*
- *Planning and Environment Act 1987*
- *Environment Protection Act 1970*
- *Heritage Act 1995*
- *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2006*

Key issues

‘Environment’ is defined very broadly – good EIA assesses the range of economic, social and environmental factors that are affected by a proposal.

EIA fundamentally addresses **negative** impacts that are **external** to a proposal - a good EIA can place these in the context of the positive benefits of a proposal.

EIA should present a coherent picture of the overall effect of the combined impacts of a project – not a series of isolated conclusions on air, water, land etc...

EIA should be integrated with design.

Public consultation is central to the process – effective, proponent led community consultation is key.

EIA should maintain a clear focus on the statutory decisions that will be informed by the assessment – where possible EIA should include the information required to make these decisions. EIA can provide a framework for engaging with agencies.