

Making a public submission on an environmental impact report and draft statement of environmental objectives

Under the *Energy Resources Act 2000* and Energy Resources Regulations 2013, environmental impact reports (EIRs) and draft statements of environmental objectives (SEOs) must be circulated for public comment. Notices inviting submissions from interested members of the public on EIRs and draft SEOs are published on the Department for Energy and Mining (DEM) website and in state and regional newspapers.

All submissions made in response to an invitation for public comment will be made available on the [Environmental Register](#) on the DEM website, and during office hours at the public office determined by the Minister.

This brochure provides guidance on what to consider when making a public submission and how to protect privacy for personal information such as contact details.

FORM AND CONTENT

Submissions must be provided in written form and be relevant to the EIR and the subject matter of the draft SEO.

Public submissions should be lodged electronically using the [online submission portal](#) provided on the DEM website. The portal has been tailored to enable written comments relating to specific areas of the documents to be made efficiently, while also allowing for general comments and content through the ability to attach Word or PDF documents.

Care must be taken to ensure that the submission (including any attached documents) does not contain any personal, confidential or other information that the person making the submission does not wish to be published.

Public submissions must be received by the department prior to the closing date published on the website and in the newspaper in order to be considered.

If you have trouble with the online submission portal, please phone 08 8463 3000 or email DEM.engineering@sa.gov.au in the first instance. Hard copy submissions will be accepted. Post to:

Re: [Activity] Public Consultation
Department for Energy and Mining
GPO Box 320
Adelaide SA 5000

ENSURING YOUR COMMENTS ARE EFFECTIVE

Submissions should present clear and supported comments relevant to the content of the EIR and/or draft SEO and should avoid posing questions directed at the department. Outside of the public submissions process the department welcomes questions and feedback – see [Contacts](#) on the DEM website.

SEOs are required to state the environmental objectives that must be achieved in carrying out the relevant regulated activities, criteria to be applied to determine whether they have been achieved, and reporting requirements. The SEO must include as an objective the rehabilitation of land adversely affected by regulated activities.

The opportunity to provide public comment is not intended to commence dialogue between the submitter and the department or the licensee, but rather is an opportunity for further comments to be provided and additional considerations to be taken into account in the assessment of the EIR and draft SEO. If you are interested in developing an ongoing dialogue with the licensee, you should engage directly with the licensee to initiate this. The department does not provide individual responses to public comments received.

WHAT HAPPENS WITH YOUR COMMENTS?

The department considers all written submissions made during the public comment period and provides these to the licensee for consideration and to address comments where necessary in the draft SEO or the EIR. All submissions made before the closing date will be taken into account.

The information in the written submissions is considered by the department during the assessment of the EIR and draft SEO – i.e. whether they appropriately identify and evaluate environmental impacts and risks of the activities/project and set out appropriate mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts to as low as reasonably practicable, and to acceptable levels. Where the EIR and/or draft SEO do not meet these requirements, the licensee is advised that amendments are required.

Following consideration of submissions, the minister may approve the SEO, either without amendment, or with amendments as appropriate. If there are substantial amendments then the process of public consultation must be repeated.

Gazetted SEOs are published on the [Environmental Register](#) with all associated documents – including the EIR, public submissions and responses to submissions.

If you provided comment through either the licensee's consultation period or in response to the department's invitations for public comment, then your comment may also be contained in the consultation section of the EIR.