

Typical environmental approval timeframe

*Timeframe in the table includes both assessment and regulator approval (where required)



Requirement	Timeframe	Details
BC Act s7.3	4 weeks	Assessment of significance for works that could harm threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats.
BC Act s7.2	28 weeks	<p>For works that are likely to have a significant impact on threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats.</p> <p>Assessment timeframe: 5-6 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 28 days - Request the DPIE Director-General's requirements for an SIS (Flora and Fauna Assessment/7 Part Test to be issued with the request) 2-3 months - Complete SIS and determine whether or not to grant approval 30 days - If yes, place the SIS (and environmental assessment if applicable) on public exhibition. 21 days - Request the DPIE Director General's concurrence. Any public submissions received to be sent to the DPIE Director General with the request. <p>Approval timeframe: 21 days (from the date of receipt of the last submission)</p>
CLM Act s60	12-50 weeks	Duty to notify EPA and obtain instructions on how to address contamination
ES Act s45	40 days	Provide local council with 40 days notification of the proposal to carry out the erection, installation, extension, alteration, maintenance and removal of electricity works (other than routine repairs and or maintenance work).
EPBC Act Part 8	12 weeks	<p>For works that have been referred and deemed to be a 'controlled action' by the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Assessment timeframe: ~5 weeks Approval timeframe: 40 days</p>
EPBC Act s68	8 weeks	<p>For works that may have a significant impact to an item of National Heritage, World Heritage, Commonwealth Marine Areas, Commonwealth Land (including Commonwealth Heritage), Commonwealth Threatened Species and Ecological Communities, Ramsar Wetlands and Migratory Species.</p> <p>Assessment timeframe: 3-4 weeks</p> <p>Approval timeframe: 20 business days (It takes 20 business days to advise you of the outcome of your referral and whether or not formal assessment and approval under the EPBC Act is required).</p>
EP&A Act, Part 5 SER	3 weeks	<p>Summary environmental report (SER) for most new construction works (minor and neither complex nor extensive impacts).</p> <p>Note: Typically also requires notification to Council before finalising (see elsewhere)</p>

Requirement	Timeframe	Details
EP&A Act, Part 5 REF	24 weeks	<p>REF is required for most new transmission works (with relatively larger impacts) such as zone substations and new transmission lines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow 4 weeks from receipt of all required information. • 6 weeks to prepare REF and undertake specialist studies (assumes no major issues) • 8 weeks to undertake council/community consultation • 1 week to prepare responses to submissions • 2 weeks to finalise REF • 3 weeks to finalise CEMP • 1 week to finalise post-construction report <p>REFs are typically done in accordance with the timeframes of a community consultation program.</p>
EP&A Act NPWS REF (Part 5 in national parks)	9 weeks	<p>NPWS are a determining authority for works in a National Park (S156A of the NPW Act).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 40 calendar days subject to conditions. - https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/-/media/OEH/Corporate-Site/Documents/Parks-reserves-and-protected-areas/Development-guidelines/guidelines-for-preparing-a-review-of-environmental-factors-220069.pdf <p>Assessment timeframe: ~3 weeks Approval timeframe: 40 days</p>
EP&A Act, Part 5.1 EIS	50-80 weeks	Environmental assessment for new construction works which are considered state significant infrastructure (SSI).
FM Act s204	4–6 weeks	Harming protected vegetation such as seagrass and mangroves (if the works do not meet Ausgrid’s exemption). 28 days notice of planned dredging and reclamation work must be given to DPI (Fisheries). Any conditions required by DPI need to be addressed
FM Act s199	4 weeks	Dredging or reclamation (public authority) notification required to DPIE. 21 days notification
WM Act	12 weeks	<p>91B Water supply work approval - Required to construct or use a water supply work to take, store, convey or divert water (such as a water pump or bore, dam, levee, weir) – some exemptions apply</p> <p>91C Drainage work approval - Required to construct or use a drainage work to drain water from land (such as a pump, pipe or channel) – some exemptions apply</p> <p>91F Aquifer interference approval - Required to carry out aquifer interference activities (such as penetrating or interfering with water in an aquifer) – some exemptions apply</p> <p>Assessment timeframe: ~4 weeks Approval timeframe: 30-60 days</p>

Requirement	Timeframe	Details
Heritage Act s57	12 weeks	For works on or to an item listed on the State Heritage Register which do not meet the exemption criteria. Assessment timeframe: ~4 weeks Approval timeframe: 40-60 days
Heritage Act s57(2)	4 weeks	For works on an item on the State Heritage Register or archaeological area which meet the exemption criteria but require notification. Assessment timeframe: 2 weeks Approval timeframe: 15 days
Heritage Act s63(2)	11 weeks	Demolish an item on the State Heritage Register. Assessment timeframe: ~3 weeks Approval timeframe: 40-60 days
Heritage Act s139(4)	3 weeks	Disturb or excavate a relic. Assessment timeframe: 5 days Approval timeframe: 15 days
Heritage Act s170	5 weeks	Demolish a local heritage item listed on Ausgrid's Heritage and Conservation Register. Assessment timeframe: ~3 weeks Approval timeframe: 14 days
SEPP (T&I)	21 days	Provide the local council with written notice of development that involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • impacting stormwater management services provided by a council • generating traffic on a council road network • connecting to and impacting on a sewerage system owned by council • connecting to and using a substantial volume of water from a water supply system owned by council • installing a temporary structure on, or the enclosing of, a public place under council's management • excavating a footpath or road for which council is the roads authority.
SEPP (T&I)	21 days	Consultation with public authorities other than council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • development adjacent to land reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 - the Department of Environment and Climate Change, • development adjacent to a marine park declared under the Marine Parks Act 1997 - the Marine Parks Authority, • development adjacent to an aquatic reserve declared under the Fisheries Management Act 1994 - the Department of Environment and Climate Change, • development in the foreshore area within the meaning of the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority Act 1998 - the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority, • development comprising a fixed or floating structure in or over navigable waters - the Maritime Authority of NSW,
SEPP (T&I)	6 weeks	For works that are likely to have an impact that is not minor or inconsequential on a local heritage item. Assessment timeframe: ~3 weeks Notification timeframe: 21 days
SEPP (T&I)	21 days	Provide the local council and occupiers of adjoining land with written notice to undertake electricity substation development.
NPW Act s87	4-6 weeks	Undertake an Aboriginal Heritage Due Diligence Assessment to determine whether an application for a permit under s87 or s90 is required.

Requirement	Timeframe	Details
NPW Act s90	6-12 months	<p>Destroying, damaging or defacing an Aboriginal object / site or place.</p> <p>Assessment timeframe (Aboriginal Heritage Impact Assessment): 25 weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 weeks - engagement of archaeologists, organising advertisements in local papers (publication deadlines need to be considered) • 2 weeks - Aboriginal groups to register interest (from the date of advertisement publication) - STATUTORY • 1 week - Archaeologists to prepare survey methodology • 4 weeks - registered Aboriginal groups feedback period for survey methodology - STATUTORY • 2 weeks - organise groups archaeologists to attend survey • 1 week - carry out survey • 6 weeks - Archaeologists to prepare a draft report • 1 week - Environmental Services reviews draft report • 3 weeks - Registered Aboriginal groups feedback period for draft report - STATUTORY • 2 weeks - Finalise report <p>Approval timeframe (internal component): 8 weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 weeks - Archaeologists to prepare excavation methodology • 1 week - Environmental services to review excavation methodology • 4 weeks - registered Aboriginal groups to give feedback on excavation methodology • 2 weeks - prepare AHIP application, obtain cheque, obtain Executive Manager's signature on the AHIP application • 2 weeks - once permit is received, notify DPIE of when work will start (1 week), organise groups/archaeologist to undertake excavation works • 1-8 weeks - carry out excavation/ salvage work. This is highly variable and depends on the extent of the project and the number/significance of sites in the project area. <p>Approval timeframe (external component): 6-8 months</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24-32 weeks - Permit approval from DPIE <p>Note: The archaeologists will be required to submit a report to DPIE (within 2 years) on the works carried out under the permit. This report will not affect the commencement of construction work.</p>
POEO Act	12-50 weeks	<p>S75 – The conditions of a licence may require the holder to provide information relating to the creation, collection, handling, transportation, treatment, reprocessing, recycling, reuse or disposal of waste.</p>
Roads Act 1993	2-6 weeks	<p>A s138 permit (Road Occupancy Licence or ROL) is required by the appropriate road authority (Council or the RMS) for work on a classified road. The Traffic Management Centre (TMC) requires 10 business days to process and respond to ROL applications for planned work. In the event that RMS proposes to impose conditions of consent, Ausgrid requests RMS to commence the consultation process required by section 138(3) as soon as possible, to ensure that the works can commence within 40 days after the date of this notice.</p>

Requirement	Timeframe	Details
Specialist assessments	4–6 weeks	Noise assessment
	4–6 weeks	Contamination assessment
	4–6 weeks	Waste classification
	4–6 weeks	ASS assessment
	4–6 weeks	EMF assessment

Glossary

AHIP	Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit	SIS	Species Impact Statement
ASS	Acid Sulfate Soils	SSI	State significant infrastructure
BC Act	<i>Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016</i>	TMC	Traffic Management Centre
CLM Act	<i>Contaminated Land Management Act 1997</i>		
CEMP	Construction Environmental Management Plan		
DPI	NSW Department of Primary Industries		
DPIE	NSW Department of Planning and Environment		
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement		
EMF	Electric and magnetic fields		
EP&A Act	<i>Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979</i>		
EPA	NSW Environment Protection Authority		
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>		
ES Act	<i>Electricity Supply Act 1995</i>		
FM Act	<i>Fisheries Management Act 1994</i>		
Heritage Act	Heritage Act 1977		
NPW Act	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974</i>		
PAD	Potential Aboriginal Deposit		
POEO Act	<i>Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997</i>		
REF	Review of Environmental Factors		
RMS	NSW Roads and Maritime Authority		
ROL	Road Occupancy Licence		
SEPP (T&I) Infrastructure) 2021	State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021		
SER	Summary Environmental Report		