



Pinjarra Refinery Proposed Efficiency Upgrade

Environmental Protection Statement

November 2003

This document provides information about how the Department of Environment would assess a project such as the proposed Pinjarra Refinery Efficiency Upgrade.



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Alcoa will be submitting an Environmental Protection Statement to the Environmental Protection Authority (via the Department of Environment) in November 2003 for the proposed Pinjarra Efficiency Upgrade project.

This document assists the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to environmentally assess the project and provide recommendations in a Bulletin document to the Minister for the Environment. The Minister for the Environment will then make the decision to either approve the project with certain Ministerial Conditions, or not.

The EPA reviewed the information Alcoa provided when initially referring this project and indicated its intention to set a level of assessment of Environmental Protection Statement (EPS).

Attached is a flow diagram from the EPA website detailing the steps required in this approval process and an explanation of the process. Also included is a flow diagram outlining the steps Alcoa is undertaking to meet approval requirements and government and community expectations.

The EPS level of assessment is typically applied to proposals of local interest that:

- raise a number of significant environmental factors which can be readily managed,
- where it is considered that environmental conditions under Part IV of the Act are required to ensure the proposal is implemented and managed in an environmentally acceptable manner, and
- where in the judgement of the Authority, a formal public review period may be unnecessary because the proponent has adequately consulted with stakeholders.

Alcoa will submit an EPS to the EPA, who will consider whether the EPS level is still appropriate and if so, they will advertise the EPS and associated documents (Bulletin) and invite the community to comment. Alcoa will make copies available to the community.

The EPS will incorporate details on the proposed Efficiency Upgrade and its impacts and changes to the surrounding environment. The report will detail the use of raw materials in the current and proposed context, the structural changes required to the Refinery capital and equipment; as well as Alcoa's current environmental management at both the Pinjarra refinery and Huntly mine site. An important aspect of the report will include the socio-economic issues management and the consultation progress and current issues and outcomes of the SRG. The EPS has been developed in consultation with the SRG and other stakeholders.

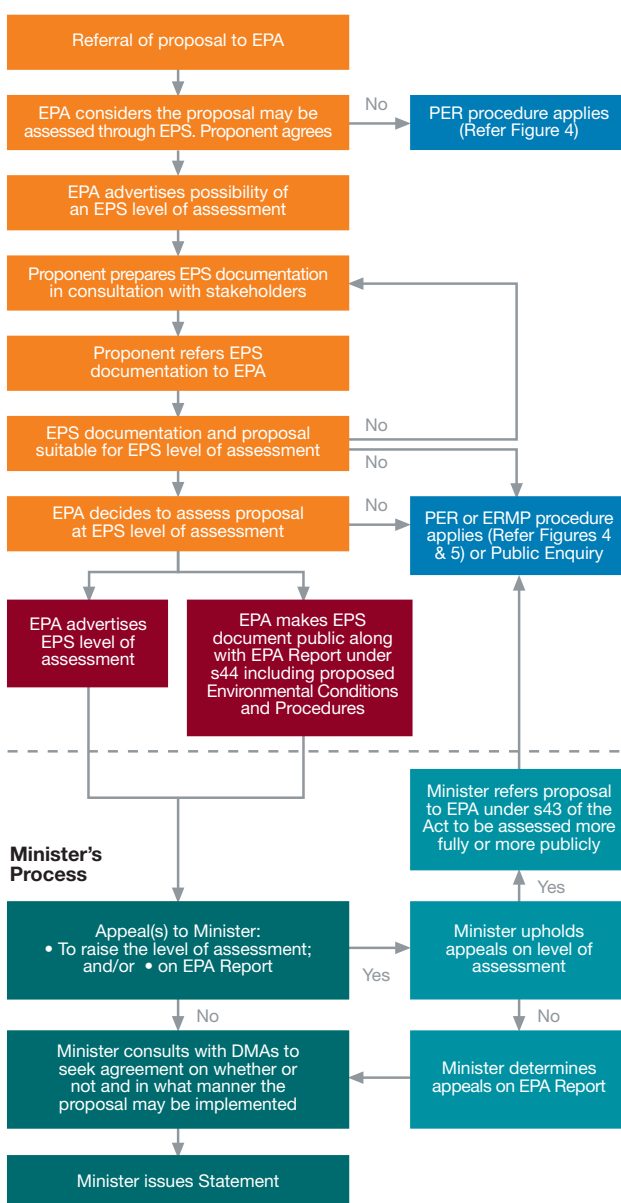
As part of the EPS process, the Minister for the Environment invites the community to provide feedback, or written appeals during a 14 day public appeals process. The community however, is encouraged to provide feedback in these initial stages of project development so that it can be incorporated early. If you wish to provide comment or feedback, please contact the Efficiency Upgrade Communications Team on **phone 9531 6585 or email pinjarraupgrade@alcoa.com.au**.

Right is a flow diagram from the Environmental Protection Authority website detailing the steps required in this approval process.

Environmental Protection Authority Approval Process

Source: www.epa.wa.gov.au

EPA's Process



Environmental Protection Act 1986

Environmental Impact Assessment (Part IV Division 1)

Administrative Procedures 2002

5.3 Environmental Protection Statement (EPS)

5.3.1

This level of assessment will typically be applied to proposals of local interest that raise a number of significant environmental factors which can be readily managed, where it is considered that environmental conditions under Part IV of the Act are required to ensure the proposal is implemented and managed in an environmentally acceptable manner, and where in the judgement of the Authority, a formal public review period may be unnecessary because the proponent has adequately consulted with stakeholders.

5.3.2

The following is a summary of the assessment procedure that will apply to this level of assessment.

1. The proponent refers the proposal to the EPA. Based on the information contained in the referral, the EPA determines that it may be appropriate to assess the proposal through the EPS process. The Chairman of the EPA discusses this with the proponent and where the proponent agrees to proceed with assessment through the EPS process, the EPA provides guidance, where appropriate, on the further information required in an EPS document. The EPA may also provide suggestions about the people or groups that the proponent should contact for consultation purposes.
2. The EPA will advertise its intention to set an EPS level of assessment on the proposal and indicating:
 - That the level of assessment for the proposal has not yet been set by the EPA;
 - That there are no appeal rights until the level of assessment has been set;
 - That anyone interested in the proposal should contact the proponent if they require information or wish to be part of the consultation process; and
 - Whether the EPS document will need to cover all environmental issues/factors, or only the few key issues/factors.
3. Proponent prepares EPS document in consultation with stakeholders and other interested parties.
4. Proponent submits the final EPS document.

5. EPA sets level of assessment as EPS and releases the EPA Report under section 44 of the Act together with conditions and procedures which it considers should be applied to the proposal. EPA advertises the EPS level of assessment and the availability of the EPA Report.

6. Proponents make the EPS document available for public inspection, as required by the EPA.

5.3.3

Where proponents have been given an indication that this level of assessment may be appropriate, they should consult with DMAs, other relevant agencies and identified

stakeholders in the preparation of the EPS document. For some types of proposals, preparing an EPS should be straightforward. However, because of the necessity to consult with stakeholders and the public in the preparation of satisfactory EPS documentation, the fact that a proponent has undertaken to prepare an EPS should not be taken as a prior commitment by the EPA that this level of assessment will be applied when the proposal is finally referred.

For this level of assessment to be set, a proponent's EPS document will need to demonstrate to the EPA that:

- (a) the community and key stakeholders, including DMAs, have been adequately consulted and their views taken into account;
- (b) all necessary studies have been undertaken in a competent manner;
- (c) the results of studies have been incorporated into the design and intended operation and management of the proposal;
- (d) the proposal conforms with applicable environmental guidelines, policies, standards and procedures;
- (e) the required environmental factors have been adequately addressed; and
- (f) appropriate environmental management commitments have been made;

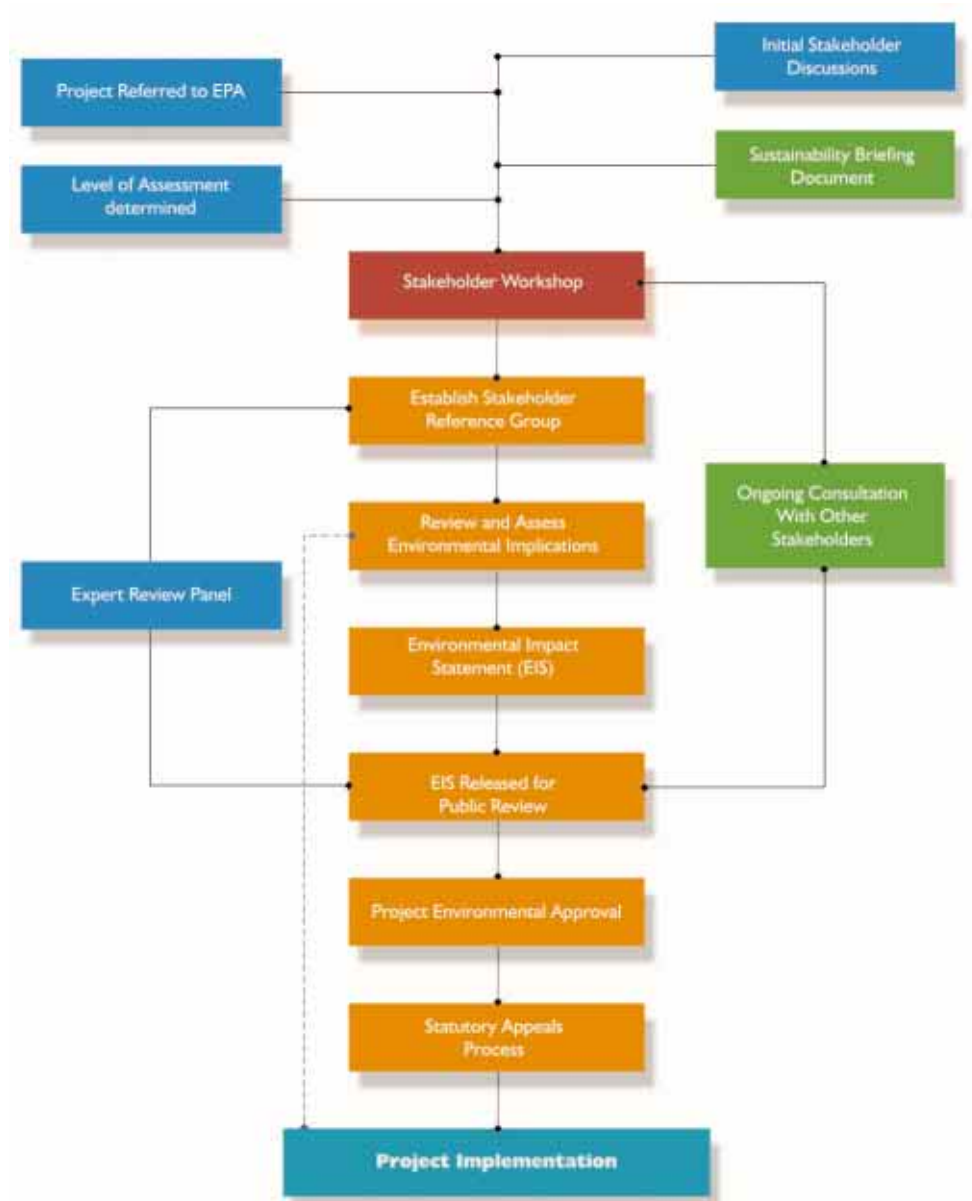
5.3.4

Once engaged in the EPS process, a proponent would have the right to withdraw from the EPS process at any time to engage in an alternative level of assessment, and could do so by formally notifying the EPA.

Below is the process Alcoa has devised and is following to seek approval from the Environmental Protection Authority for the proposed Pinjarra Refinery Efficiency Upgrade proposal.

Pinjarra Efficiency Upgrade Assessment Framework

Source: www.epa.wa.gov.au



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