

Regional Planning Interests Act 2014

Overview

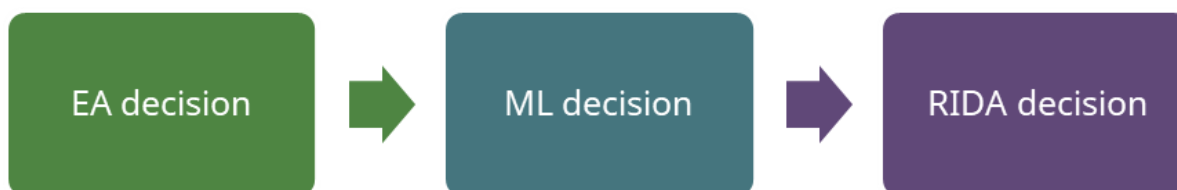
What does it do?	<p>Gives effect to regional plans and protects areas of regional interest by introducing a regional interest development approval (RIDA) to manage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the impacts of resource and regulated activities on these areas and ● the coexistence of resource and regulated activities with other activities, such as prime agriculture
Who does it apply to?	<p>Resource and regulated activities proposed to occur in area of regional interest</p> <p>Some activities are exempt, such as pre-existing resource activities</p>
What does it protect?	<p>4 areas of regional interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● priority agricultural areas ● priority living areas ● strategic cropping areas ● strategic environmental areas
Who gets a say?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Private (landowners) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Always notified ○ Can always make submissions ○ Are always provided appeal rights ● Public <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Only notified for applications in PLA or where chief executive requires notification ○ Common for notification to be required on public interest grounds ○ Notification can be exempt if provided previously (e.g. EP Act EIS) ○ No appeal rights
Who assesses it?	<p>Department responsible for planning OR another assessing agency</p> <p>Assessor provides recommendation to decision maker</p>
Who decides?	<p>Chief executive of the department responsible for planning</p>
Who can appeal?	<p>Applicant / landowners / affected landowners</p> <p>No third-party appeal rights</p>

Relevance to our Review

Mine approvals

New mines, and mine expansions, in an area of regional interest will be required to obtain a RIDA. This is in addition to the ML and EA and any other approvals.

Due to information required for RIDA the general mine approval pathway is:



RIDA provides an alternative assessment and approval model for consideration and comparison.

It also has direct links to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and Environmental Protection Act 1994 that need to be considered in the preparation of recommendations.

Legislative interactions

Direct touch-points between RPI Act and the mining lease (ML) and environmental authority (EA) processes:

- RIDA applicants must hold, have applied for, or will apply for EA or resource authority
- RIDA decision can be included in EA decision notice (though not common practice)
- RIDA conditions are paramount to ML and EA and are not bound by CG.

Stakeholder issues

- Duplication
- Added cost and time
- Complexity of the framework (especially notification)
- Effectiveness to manage coexistence with CSG activities

Upcoming reforms

- Queensland Audit Office / Gasfields commission review and recommendations
- Government released a discussion paper in 2023 and is currently progressing reforms

