

Environmental assessment process



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Assessment of the Draft EIS will be in accordance with the Commonwealth EPBC Act and the Northern Territory Environmental Assessment Act.

On 16 January 2013, ERA submitted a referral and notice of intent under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) and Northern Territory *Environmental Assessment Act* respectively, for the Ranger 3 Deeps underground mine (the Project) (EPBC 2013/6722).

Both Governments deemed that the Project required further studies and a more comprehensive assessment at the level of an environmental impact statement (EIS). The Draft EIS is designed to satisfy the requirements of both the Australian and Northern Territory Governments.

Through the Draft EIS and approvals process, ERA aims to demonstrate that:

- the Draft EIS provides a context for understanding and assessing potential local and regional impacts;

- it has supplemented current understanding of the existing environment with additional studies, in sufficient detail to predict changes that could occur as a result of Project activities;
- it has incorporated environmental management controls into the design and planning phases of the Project to avoid or minimise impacts on the environment through all Project phases (e.g. construction, operation, decommissioning, rehabilitation and closure);
- it has provided sufficient detail about the Project to allow public engagement and an opportunity for individuals, groups and organisations to express their views about the Project. Information about how to make a submission is available in the document and on ERA's website; and,
- it has provided sufficient detail about the Project to allow Australian and Northern Territory Governments to make an informed approval decision.

Assessment of the Draft EIS will be in accordance with the Commonwealth EPBC Act and the Northern Territory Environmental Assessment Act, and follows the process outlined in the figure on the next page.



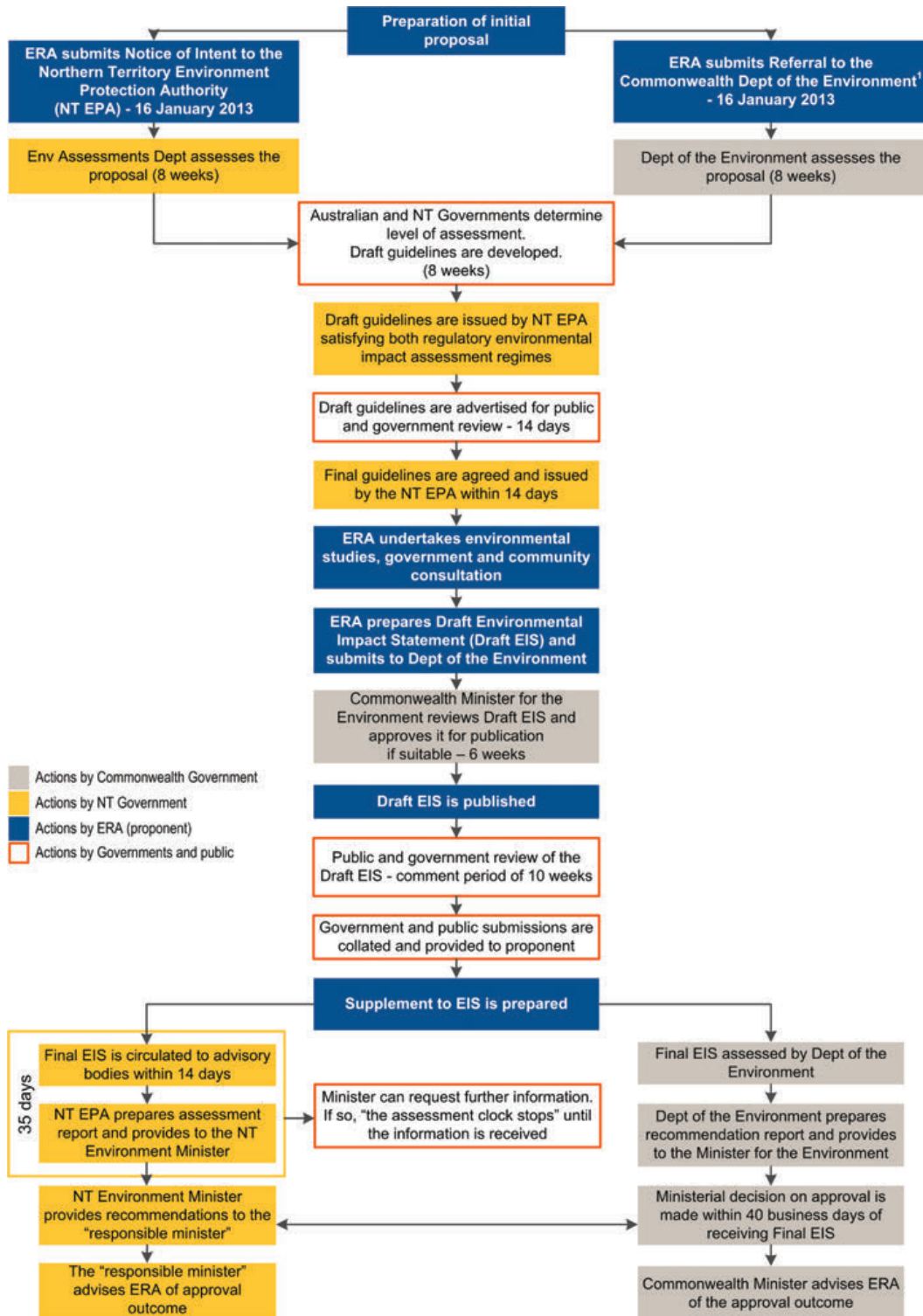
Further reading:

Refer to Chapter 1 of the *ERA Ranger 3 Deeps: Draft Environmental Impact Statement*.

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1. Formerly the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities