

ONSHORE OIL AND GAS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

COMMUNITY TOOLKIT

A guide for commenting on Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for **onshore oil and gas projects**



You have a right to comment on this process.

Communities and other interested and affected parties (**I&AP**) have a right to participate in environmental decision-making that may affect their land, environment, health, livelihoods, culture, and future generations.

Before any exploration or drilling can begin, companies must be granted a Environmental Authorisation (**EA**). This process includes an Environmental Impact Assessment (**EIA**), sometimes called an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (**ESIA**).

Depending on the project, the EIA can consist of a basic assessment or a more in-depth assessment (phase 1 & 2). For larger projects, the EIA has two key phases where community input is needed, the:

- 1 Scoping Phase; and
- 2 Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Phase

There must be a call to submit comments during both of these processes, the basic and more in-depth assessment.

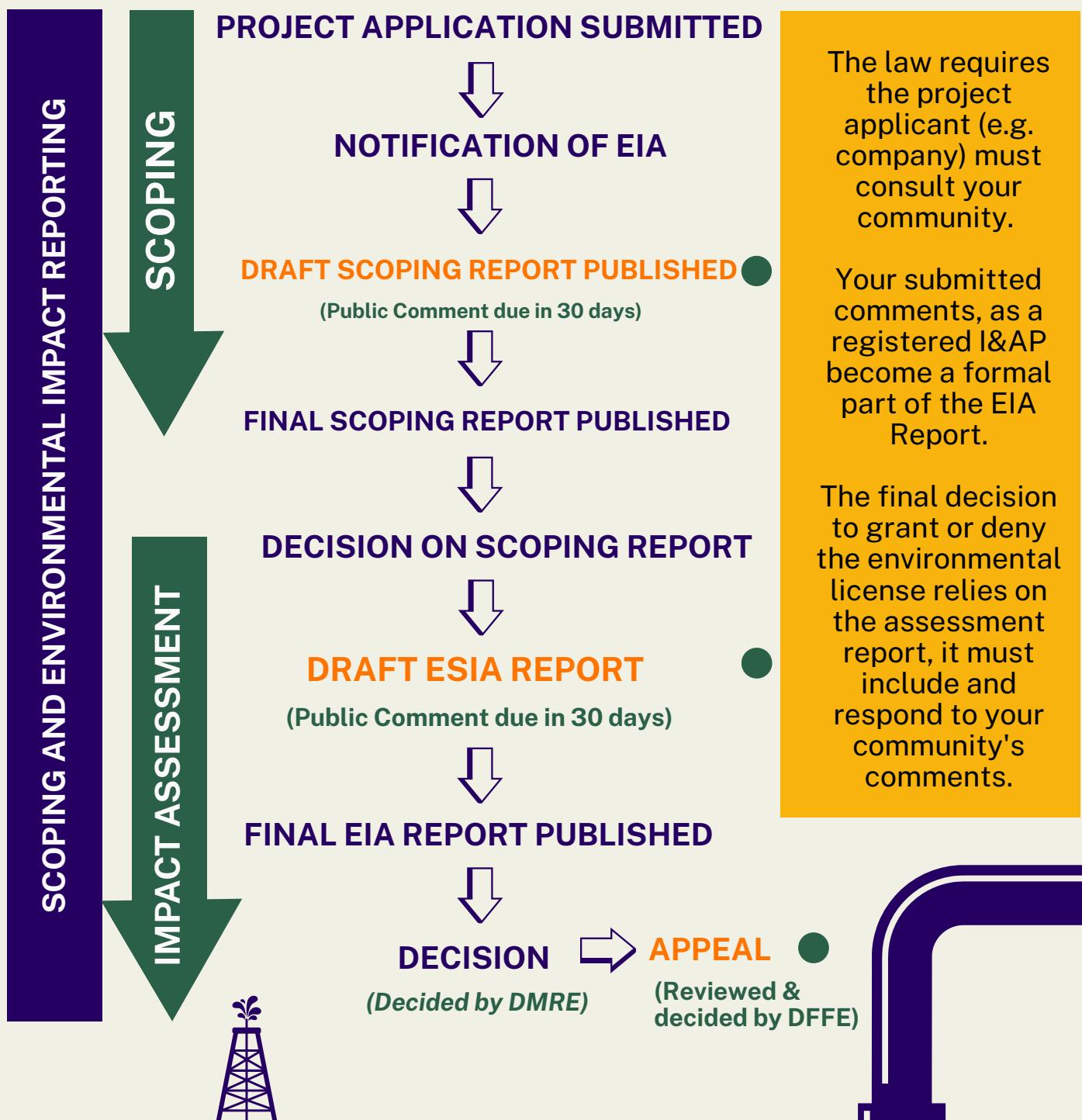
**THIS GUIDE WILL SHOW YOU HOW TO
PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY**



Understanding the EIA Process

The **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** process ensures potential impacts of a project are evaluated before it can be approved, and any exploration or production for oil and gas begins. Your participation is important at each stage.

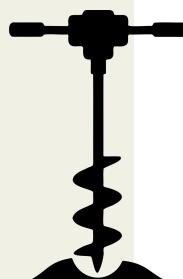
Below is an overview of the key steps involved.



What to think about when submitting comments

Consider how a project can impact both your community and the climate. The questions below will guide you to identify these potential effects.

- **Life and Livelihood:** How will this project impact my livelihood, work, or income?
- **Health:** Will the project have an impact on me, my family, or my community's health?
- **Water:** How will the project impact the groundwater and other watersources, and what will be done if the impact is negative? What plans are there to prevent contamination and to ensure a reliable water supply?
- **Land and Location:**
 - Will the project affect my access to land, roads, homes, or communal areas?
 - Do I live, farm, graze livestock, collect resources, or travel through the Project area?
- **Animals, Plants, and the Environment:** Will the project affect wildlife, livestock, crops, or indigenous plants in the area?
- **Benefits:**
 - Will the project provide my community with employment?
 - What kinds of skills are required to be employed?
 - Is it long-term employment?
 - What benefits will the project bring to my community?
- **Our Way of Life:**
 - How will this project impact my cultural and spiritual practices and heritage that are connected to the land or water resources?
 - How will this project impact my community's relationship with the land?
- **Climate Change:** Will the project bring changes to the climate, and how will that affect our daily lives and future generations?
- **Future generations:**
 - How will this project impact our children and future generations?
 - What is my role in protecting their future social and environmental interests?



How to structure your comment

There are no templates or requirements of how you need to structure your comment. Below is an example of how you can structure your comment.

1. Introduce yourself: Who are you? Are you representing a group or someone else? Why is this project important/relevant to you?

2. Your main concerns: List your 2-3 main concerns about the project. Have these concerns been addressed in the project documents?

3. Impact on livelihoods: State how you believe this project will affect your livelihood and the livelihood of your community.

4. Impact on land & water: State how you believe the project will impact your access to and use of the land, water resources and how it will impact the movement of animal species (livestock, birds, wildlife, etc.).

5. Community benefits: If any, share the positive impacts that you feel the project will bring to you or your community.

6. Culture and heritage: State how you believe the project will impact your cultural and spiritual heritage if it goes ahead.

7. Public meetings: If public participation meetings took place, state whether the public consultations were done in a language you understand and whether it helped you understand what the project was about. Were the positive and negative impacts discussed with you?

8. Any other comments or concerns, and what you want to happen with the project.

Name and Surname: _____

Community/Area: _____

Address: _____

Cell No: _____

Email: _____

Sign:

Date: