

## Overview

This standard is one of three related standards that together cover Environmental Impact Assessment. They describe the requirements to plan and conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and to produce an Environmental Statement (ES). The series covers the following:

Standard EM11 - Prepare, screen and scope an Environmental Impact Assessment  
Standard EM12 - Co-ordination and management of the assessment process and initial Environmental Statement compilation  
Standard EM13 - Final Environmental Statement reporting, communication and follow up.

These three standards do not outline the detailed requirements for specialist environmental assessment topics but they do focus on the project management, co-ordination and delivery of the EIA process stages.

EIA is a systematic process to identify, predict, evaluate and communicate the environmental effects of proposed actions and projects. The key stages of EIA are:

Proposal identification  
Screening  
Scoping  
Impact analysis  
Mitigation  
Preparation of Environmental Statement  
Review  
Decision-making  
Follow up.

As a minimum, consultation with statutory bodies and interested parties should take place at the scoping and review stages of EIA. It should be stressed that whilst EIA is a statutory process for some developments, it is not strictly a linear process. EIA is a dynamic and iterative process requiring interaction between stages as the assessment progresses, with feedback loops enabling project proposals to be refined and adapted in response to the findings of the assessment.

This standard covers the main process stages of initial EIA preparation as outlined in the first three stages above.

This standard would be appropriate for:

? A developer with responsibility for commissioning or managing an EIA  
? An environmental consultant or advisor with responsibility for co-ordinating either:  
o the full EIA process on behalf of a developer, or  
o early stage EIA processes

This standard is relevant as supporting information if you are:

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**Overview**

A specialist providing early stage advice to formative EIA stages

A statutory or non-statutory consultee engaged within the EIA process

An officer from a consenting authority responsible for case work requiring EIA and tasks such as the response to a formal screening or scoping request

An individual responsible for reviewing either a full ES or the early screening and scoping stages.

**Performance criteria**

You must be able to:

- P1 Provide informed and effective input on environmental, sustainability and planning development issues, pertaining to early stage planning of development proposals and the consideration of potential alternative options
- P2 Recognise and evaluate the potential significant environmental and sustainability impacts of the proposed development
- P3 Relate potential significant impacts to legislative and other requirements
- P4 Agree the scope of the EIA and the format of the environmental statement with the developer and key parties
- P5 Implement guidance and recognised good practice for EIA screening and scoping
- P6 Liaise with consenting authorities to secure screening and/or scoping opinion
- P7 Co-ordinate effective consultation with statutory bodies and stakeholders
- P8 Review information and outcomes to identify potentially significant environmental effects requiring assessment and mitigation
- P9 Plan team and resources needed to conduct an EIA and produce an ES
- P10 Identify technical study and data collection priorities to be addressed during the EIA process.

### Knowledge and understanding

#### You need to know and understand:

- K1 The purpose of EIA and its relationship to the planning and development design process
- K2 The required stages of EIA and statutory procedures
- K3 National and sector legislation, national and regional policy statements and guidance on EIA
- K4 Possible environmental impacts arising from different forms of development
- K5 Legal consents applicable to the operation, post EIA
- K6 How to manage the EIA screening and scoping exercises
- K7 How and where to secure environmental and social baseline information
- K8 How to assess environmental impacts through different stages of the development
- K9 How to identify and develop effective environmental mitigation and enhancements
- K10 How to write an objective scoping report
- K11 How to work with an interdisciplinary team and secure specialist input
- K12 When and how to communicate with required and interested parties
- K13 How to manage a complex, dynamic and interrelated process
- K14 How to work with an inter disciplinary team and secure specialist input
- K15 When and how to communicate with statutory consultees and interested parties
- K16 How to manage a complex, dynamic and inter-related process.

O29NEM11

# Prepare, screen and scope an Environmental Impact Assessment



O29NEM11

# Prepare, screen and scope an Environmental Impact Assessment



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