

## Environmental Assessment Terms of Reference Process

The environmental assessment terms of reference is the first step in the environmental assessment process. It sets out the framework for the planning and decision making process to be followed during the preparation of the environmental assessment. The terms of reference is essentially a work plan for what is going to be studied during the environmental assessment.

The environmental assessment terms of reference is a process document and is not intended to include EA study results. The work and studies for the environmental assessment are not done at the terms of reference stage.

### The EA ToR includes:

- The EA consultation
- Purpose of the study and/or undertaking
- Description of and rationale for the study/undertaking
- Description of and rationale for alternatives
- Description of the environmental conditions
- Identification of potential effects
- Approach for evaluation of alternatives

## Terms of Reference Timeline - Decision Milestones & Involvement

February 2009 - December 2009: EA Terms of Reference Process

