

Roadmap

Early Engagement & Exploration Phase

Chapters 01, 02, 03

BY THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

Department of Resources (DOR) officers conduct engagement activities before the [Queensland Exploration Program \(QEP\)](#) is announced to give directly affected stakeholders information and advance notice of any potential resource activity in their area.

BY RESOURCE COMPANIES

It is in a resource company's interests to engage early, openly and often with the communities in which they propose to operate. They are likely to become part of the community for several decades.

Engagement Phase

Chapter 04

If a resource company wants to access private land, they will make contact with the landholder directly – usually by phone followed by a 'meet and greet'.

LANDHOLDER TIP:

- Be prepared to discuss:
- Property Map
 - Property Business Plan (at least 5-10 year plan)
 - Property Biosecurity Management Plan.

Following initial discussions, the resource company will provide the landholder with a written entry notice at least 10 business days before it can carry out any activities on private land.

LANDHOLDER TIP:

Surveying is more than a 'tyre-kicking' exercise, despite its minimal impact on the land use or business activities.

These physical inspections inform the company's project plans so it's important for the landholder to **GET INVOLVED** – participate, share information and ask questions.

Don't miss the boat – early changes are easy changes.

Land Access Agreements

Chapter 05

If a resource company wishes to undertake **advanced activities** on private land, it must first negotiate a **Conduct and Compensation Agreement (CCA)** with the landholder.

LANDHOLDER TIP:

Keep talking. Maintain communication, even if negotiations hit roadblocks. This will help both sides better understand each other and find solutions to move forward.

Make Good

Chapter 06

Resource companies are required to take a number of steps to ensure water bore owners are not disadvantaged by their operations.

If a make good agreement is required, the appropriate make good measures will be negotiated between the resource company and bore owner.

LANDHOLDER TIP:

Provide alternative make good measures if you believe there is a better solution.

Construction Phase

Chapter 07

The construction phase is the source of the most disruptive activity associated with petroleum and gas development. As a general rule, it can take 5-7 months from the start of a well pad to operational handover.

All the work you did building the relationship pays off again with open communication helping to reduce the 'irritant' factor.

LANDHOLDER TIP:

- Maintain regular and effective communication with your assigned land access/liaison officer
- Attend pre-construction meetings.

Operational Phase

Chapter 08

Trained field operators will need access to your property to monitor and maintain petroleum and gas infrastructure, including ongoing safety checks, well workovers, vegetation control and general repairs on and around well pads.

LANDHOLDER TIP:

Maintain regular and effective communication with your assigned land access/liaison officer.

Land Rehabilitation & Asset Handover

Chapter 09

At the end of a gas field's operating life, aboveground infrastructure is removed and the wells decommissioned in line with the State Government's code of practice.

Landholder compensation comes to an end once the land has been rehabilitated and relinquished.

Dispute Resolution

Chapter 10

Options are available to help you reach agreements if negotiations or relationships with resource companies become challenging. Including, but not limited to:

- Conference
- Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)
- Arbitration
- Public hearing by the Land Court of Queensland
- Investigation of potential breaches to existing CCAs or Make Good Agreements by the Land Access Ombudsman.

Gas Industry Tenure Stages

New tenure areas advertised

Queensland Government advertises new tenure areas (Duration: 6 months - 1 year). The Department of Resources (DOR) releases prospective tenure areas to suitable and qualified resource companies via a competitive tender process.

Exploration Phase

State Government:

The DOR will:

- Contact landholders whose properties are within the tender area
- Deliver targeted information sessions to inform landholders about the tender process
- Notify landholders of the outcome of the tender process and next steps on what to expect.

Successful tenderer:

Before an authority to prospect (ATP) can be granted, the successful tenderer must:

- **Obtain an Environmental Authority (EA)** – the EA is a condition of grant and protects sensitive receptors such as houses, ecosystems and areas of environmental value from resource activity. The EA is issued by the Department of Environment and Science (DES) and provides conditions to minimise the effects environmental nuisance and establishes limits on activities that could cause environmental harm
- **Address Native Title** by completing a Right to Negotiate process or entering into an Indigenous Land Use Agreement. Native title may not need to be addressed prior to the granting of an ATP where native title has been extinguished or covers less than 10% of the area of the ATP
- **Fulfill any other** approval[s] or condition[s] as described in the tender process.

ATP granted

Queensland Government awards ATP to successful bidder to conduct exploration (Duration: 12 - 27 years)

Exploration Phase

Resource company:

Company will bring communities together to explain:

- How the company does business
- Project plans
- Expected impact on properties, local infrastructure, facilities and services.

Engagement Phase (direct engagement with landholder)

Resource company:

- Contact landholder directly regarding access to their land
- Explain their planned project and what they want to do on the landholder's property
- Understand the landholder's business, property plan including their biosecurity management plan
- Explain the difference between preliminary and advanced activities
- **Entry Notice required** to carry out preliminary activities such as surveying, walking the area, taking soil samples etc.
- Discuss and agree on time frame for negotiating a CCA to allow for the carrying out of the advanced activities.

Land Access Agreements

The resource company and landholder must enter into a CCA before carrying out advanced activities. A CCA is a legally binding document agreed to by both parties. A CCA specifies:

- The activities and behaviours of the company, its employees and contractors
- Obligations and protections for both parties
- How the landholder will be compensated for the impacts of the authorised advanced activities.

Construction Phase

Exploration:

- Constructing access tracks for seismic survey
- Clearing of vegetation
- Constructing well pads and digging sumps
- Drilling exploration and appraisal wells.

Production:

- Constructing access roads
- Constructing well pads and digging sumps
- Drilling production wells
- Installing gathering lines
- Constructing worker camps, sewage/water treatment facility or fuel storage areas
- Constructing major pipelines.

Operational Phase

Exploration:

- Seismic surveys
- Appraisal well testing
- Flaring.

Production:

Ongoing maintenance schedules vary depending on the type of infrastructure used. Generally, it could be:

- **Weekly** routine inspections and maintenance
- **Monthly** gas testing of surface facilities, weed trimming
- **Quarterly** servicing of well site components
- **Bi-annually** change engines/generators, fencing check
- **Annually** pressure vessel inspections and safety checks, gas leak surveys, water/gas analysis
- **Workovers as required** well maintenance that could require a rig being brought on site.

PL granted

ATP tenure holder applies for a petroleum lease (PL) to start producing petroleum and gas (Duration: 30+ years)

ATP/PL rehabilitated & relinquished

The gas produced in Queensland is largely used for electricity generation, aluminium/fertiliser production and household uses (including heating houses/hot water and cooking).

Land Rehabilitation & Asset Handover

Rehabilitation of gas production sites and facilities must be in consultation with the landholder and in line with the current Queensland legislation.

At the end of each well's operating life (usually 15 - 30 years) :

- Aboveground infrastructure is removed
- Borehole is filled with cement or other suitable material and decommissioned
- A small dinner-plate sized cap or a stake with an identifier left behind to mark its location.

At the end of the operating life of the ATP or PL (when all wells are at the end of their operating life), the final rehabilitation must meet the conditions specified in the Environmental Authority (EA). As a minimum, final rehabilitation must ensure that:

- Each well is plugged and decommissioned
- All gathering lines are drained and plugged
- All surface infrastructure is removed
- All soils are reinstated and stabilised
- Surface drainage lines are re-established
- Vegetation is regenerated.

Resource companies provide upfront financial assurance to the Queensland Government when the tenures are awarded to cover the estimated costs of final land rehabilitation.

This is refunded after final inspection if all rehabilitation is satisfactorily completed.