

Glossary

Assessment approach

A method of assessing the likely impact of a controlled action. The choice of approach depends on the significance of the likely impact, the complexity of the action and the degree of public concern.

Bilateral agreement

A bilateral agreement is an agreement between the Commonwealth and a state or self-governing territory, which either accredits certain environmental impact assessment processes of that state or territory (an assessment bilateral) or delegates to a state or self-governing territory the authority to decide whether to approve an action.

Significant impact

A significant impact is an impact which is important, notable, or of consequence, having regard to its context or intensity. Whether or not an action is likely to have a significant impact depends upon the sensitivity, value, and quality of the environment which is impacted, and upon the intensity, duration, magnitude and geographic extent of the impacts. You should consider all of these factors when determining whether an action is likely to have a significant impact on the environment.

Biological magnification

Refers to the process whereby certain substances such as pesticides or heavy metals move up the food chain, work their way into a river or lake, and are eaten by aquatic organisms such as fish, which in turn are eaten by large birds, animals, or humans. The substances become concentrated in tissues or internal organs as they move up the chain.

Monitoring

Periodic or continuous surveillance or testing to determine the level of compliance with statutory requirements or pollutant levels in various media or in humans, animals, and other living things.

Wastewater operations and maintenance

Actions taken after construction to ensure that facilities constructed to treat wastewater will be properly operated, maintained, and managed to achieve efficiency levels and prescribed effluent levels in an optimum manner.