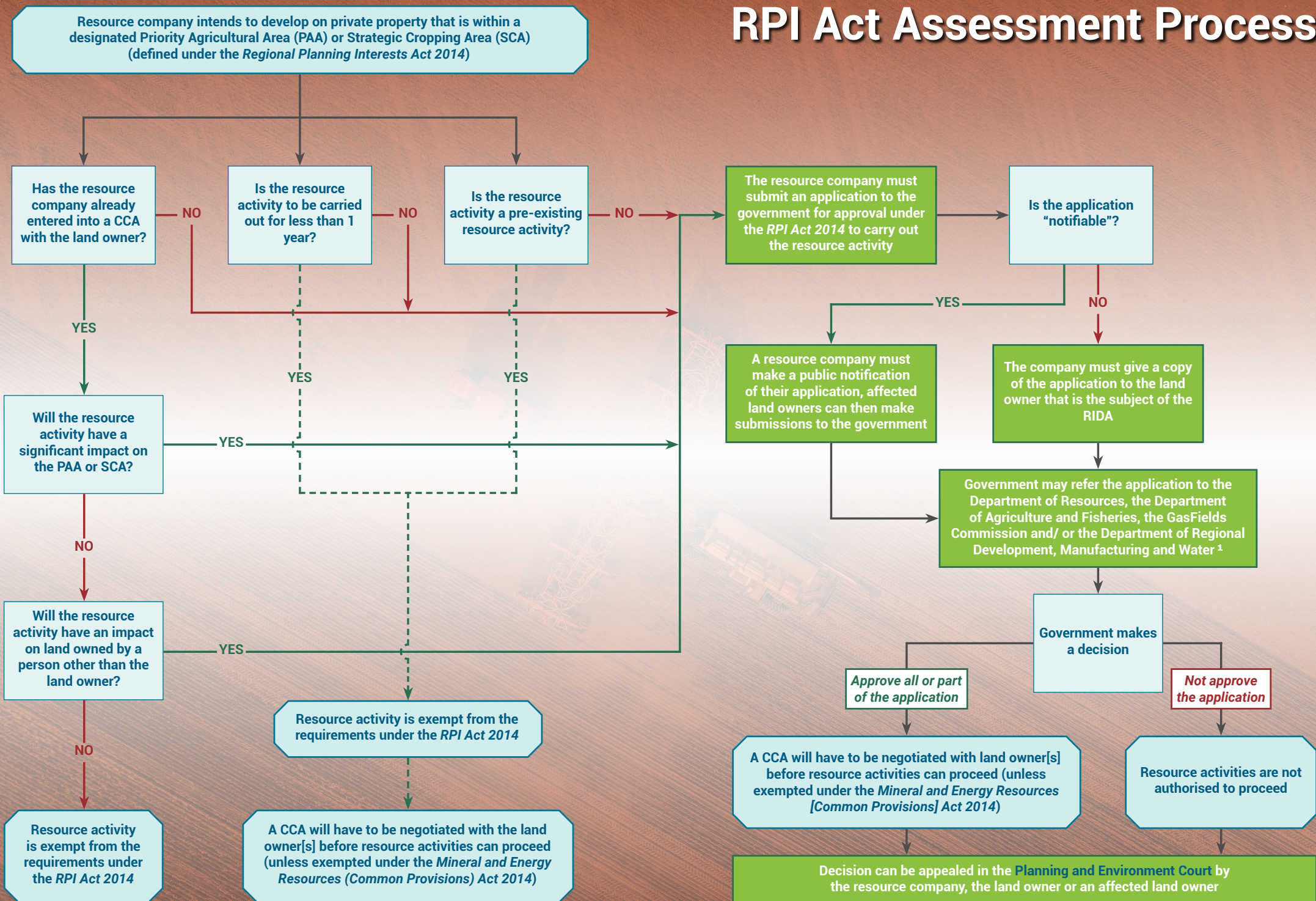


RPI Act Assessment Process



¹ For more information see: "FAQ 2: What is a RIDA?"

RPI Act Assessment Process – FAQs



Introduction

In Queensland, agricultural land is protected by regional planning legislation. These protections seek to manage the impact of resource activities and other regulated activities on areas of regional interest; and support coexistence of resource activities with other activities, including highly productive agricultural activities.

The [Regional Planning Interests Act 2014](#) (RPI Act) identifies and protects areas of regional interest throughout Queensland. It aims to strike an appropriate balance between protecting priority land uses and delivering a diverse and prosperous economic future for the State. It also provides the mechanism to apply the policies around matters of State interest stated in regional plans.

The RPI Act also enables the identification of areas of regional interest because they contribute, or are likely to contribute, to Queensland's economic, social and environmental prosperity. The RPI Act manages the impacts of resources activities in areas of regional interest to maximise the opportunity for coexistence.

Under the RPI Act and associated statutory regional plans, areas are classified as 'areas of regional interest' in order to recognise their unique characteristics from a land use perspective. In the context of agricultural land, these areas of regional interest are identified as [Priority Agricultural Areas](#) (PAA) and [Strategic Cropping Areas](#) (SCA).

For a resource activity to be undertaken on an area of regional interest, in addition to other approvals, a resource company is also required to have a [Regional Interest Development Approval](#) (RIDA), or an exemption prior to the activity being undertaken.



This GasFields Commission Queensland fact sheet aims to explain how the RPI Act and RIDA process apply, with a specific focus on the land owner perspective and interactions with land owners.

FAQ 1: What is a PAA or SCA and where can I find out if I am in one?

These areas are identified on a map in a regional plan, or prescribed under the [Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014](#) (RPI Regulation) as a PAA or SCA. PAAs are identified on a regional scale as areas of high value intensive agricultural land uses. An SCA is land that is, or is likely to be, highly suitable for cropping because of a combination of the land's soil, climate and landscape features.

Maps of PAAs and SCAs are available on the [Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning's](#) (DSDILGP) website (<https://planning.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/planning-framework/mapping>), via the **Development Assessment Mapping System (DAMS)**.

FAQ 2: What is a RIDA?

A RIDA is an approval for a resource activity to occur in an area of regional interest. A RIDA will generally include details of the activities, along with a reason for the decision and any conditions that must be complied with to manage the impact of activities on areas of regional interest.

A RIDA is subject to an assessment of the extent of the expected impact of the resources activity on the area of regional interest. For PAAs and SCAs, this assessment is undertaken by [DSDILGP](#). For applications relating to PAAs and SCAs, DSDILGP may refer the applications to the Department of Resources, the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; and/ or the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water as assessing agencies to provide technical assistance.

RIDA applications on PAAs and SCAs may be referred to the GasFields Commission (Commission) to provide advice relating to coexistence matters. **It is important to note** the Commission *is not an assessing agency*.

FAQ 3: When is a resource company required to obtain a RIDA in PAAs and SCAs?

A RIDA is required prior to a resource activity being carried out on a PAA and/ or SCA. The exception to this is where the resource activity is 'exempt' under the exemption provisions of the RPI Act.

FAQ 4: Can a resource company undertake a resource activity on PAA or SCA land without a RIDA?

A resource activity may be undertaken without a RIDA in instances where the activity qualifies for one of the exemptions outlined in the RPI Act. There are three exemptions in the RPI Act which may be relevant for activities on PAAs or SCAs:

1. Activities carried out with the agreement of the land owner (see [Section 22 of RPI Act](#))

Note: the Commission has prepared a more detailed fact sheet ('[Land Owner Agreement Exemption FAQs](#)') in relation to the application of the Section 22 exemption.

2. A resource activity is being carried out for less than one year (see [Section 23 of RPI Act](#)).
3. Where this is a pre-existing resource activity (see [Section 24 of RPI Act](#)).

Note: DSDILGP have prepared a separate fact sheet ('[Pre-existing Resource Authority Exemption](#)') that explains the application of Section 24.

Whilst an exempt resource activity may proceed without a RIDA in these instances, it must also comply with all applicable approval requirements under other legislation. This includes all statutory obligations in relation to land access notification and Conduct and Compensation Agreement (CCA) requirements.

FAQ 5: Under what circumstances can a land owner request for the Resource Authority Holder to apply for a RIDA?

A land owner cannot direct a resource company to undertake a RIDA. A land owner may discuss with a resource authority holder their obligations under the RPI Act at any time.

An important consideration for land owners is that even when the resource authority holder is operating under an exemption, an appropriate agreement with a land owner under the [land access framework](#) is required before [advanced activities](#) can be undertaken (those activities that will have more than a minor impact), i.e., a CCA, Deferral Agreement or Opt-Out Agreement.

If a resource authority holder is not able to reach a voluntary agreement with the land owner, the Section 22 exemption is not available and the resource authority holder must then obtain a RIDA before undertaking the proposed resource activity.

FAQ 6: What involvement does a land owner have in the RIDA assessment process?

The RPI Act provides a notification and consultation process for RIDA applications which provides for land owners and other stakeholders to comment on a RIDA application via a formal submission process. As a minimum, it is the applicant's responsibility to notify any land owners that are impacted by a RIDA application. In these instances, the applicant must give a copy of the application to the land owner at least five business days after it has been lodged with the Chief Executive.

A RIDA application may be publicly notified. The decision to notify rests with the Chief Executive of DSDILGP, taking into consideration the possible impacts of the resource activity on an area of regional interest, as well as the impact[s] on individual properties within the area of regional interest.

FAQ 7: Under what circumstances can a neighbouring land owner be involved in the RIDA process?

Where a RIDA application is publicly notified, a neighbouring land owner, or any interested party, may make a submission to the application. Where an application is not publicly notifiable neighbouring land owners will generally not be notified of the application.

FAQ 8: How are land owner views considered in decision making?

All properly made submissions must be considered in deciding the application by the Chief Executive.

FAQ 9: Can a land owner appeal a RIDA decision?

All RIDA decisions may be appealed to the [Planning and Environment Court](#). An appeal may be lodged by either the applicant, the land owner impacted by the RIDA, or an ['affected land owner'](#).

FAQ 10: Where can I find further information?

There is a range of RPI Act related fact sheets and reference materials available on the [DSDILGP website](#) (<https://planning.statedevelopment.qld.gov.au/planning-issues-and-interests/areas-of-regional-interest>), or for more information:

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