

# RPI Act

## assessment process



## Resource activities in areas of regional interest

In Queensland, the [Regional Planning Interests Act 2014](#) (RPI Act) helps manage the impact of resource activities and other regulated activities on areas of Queensland that contribute, or are likely to contribute, to the state's economic, social and environmental prosperity.

These areas are known as **areas of regional interest**. In the context of agricultural land, they include:

- [Priority Agricultural Areas](#), or PAAs
- [Strategic Cropping Areas](#), or SCAs.

The RPI Act aims to balance the protection of priority land uses, including highly productive agricultural activities, with Queensland's broader economic development.

Before a resource activity can be carried out in an area of regional interest, the resource company must usually have either:

- a [Regional Interest Development Approval](#) (RIDA)
- or an **exemption** under the RPI Act.



This fact sheet explains how the RPI Act and RIDA process apply, with a focus on land owners and how they may be involved.

# Frequently asked questions

## 1. What is a PAA or SCA and how do I find out if my land is in one?

PAAs and SCAs are identified in regional plans or under the [Regional Planning Interests Regulation 2014](#).

- A **Priority Agricultural Area** is an area identified at a regional scale as having high-value, intensive agricultural land uses.
- A **Strategic Cropping Area** is land that is, or is likely to be, highly suitable for cropping because of its soil, climate and landscape features.

Maps of PAAs and SCAs are available on the **Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning (DSDIP)** [website](#) via the **Development Assessment Mapping System (DAMS)**.

## 2. What is a RIDA?

A **Regional Interests Development Approval**, or **RIDA**, is an approval that allows a resource activity to take place in an area of regional interest. A RIDA will usually include:

- details of the approved activity
- the reasons for the decision
- any conditions the resource authority holder must follow to manage impacts on the area of regional interest.

For applications involving PAAs and SCAs, the [Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning](#) assesses the expected impact of the resource activity. The department may also refer applications to other Queensland Government agencies for technical advice, including the **Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Manufacturing and Regional and Rural Development**, the **Department of Primary Industries**, and the **Department of Local Government, Water and Volunteers**. RIDA applications involving PAAs and SCAs may also be referred to Coexistence Queensland for advice on coexistence matters. Coexistence Queensland is **not** an assessing agency.

## 3. When does a resource company need a RIDA in a PAA or SCA?

A resource company needs a RIDA before carrying out a resource activity in a PAA or SCA, unless an exemption under the RPI Act applies.

## 4. Can a resource company carry out a resource activity on PAA or SCA land without a RIDA?

Yes, but only if the activity qualifies for an exemption under the RPI Act. There are three exemptions that may be relevant to resource activities in PAAs or SCAs:

1. the activity is carried out with the agreement of the land owner, under [Section 22 of RPI Act](#)  
Coexistence Queensland has a separate fact sheet about the land owner agreement exemption under section 22: [Land owner agreements and RIDA exemptions](#).
2. the activity will be carried out for less than one year, under [Section 23 of RPI Act](#).
3. the activity is a pre-existing resource activity, under [Section 24 of RPI Act](#).

The Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning also has a separate [fact sheet about the pre-existing resource authority exemption](#) under section 24. Even where an exemption applies, the resource company must still comply with all other relevant legal requirements. This includes land access notification requirements and Conduct and Compensation Agreement requirements.

## 5. Can a land owner request for the resource authority holder to apply for a RIDA?

A land owner cannot require a resource company to apply for a RIDA. However, they can raise and discuss the company's obligations under the RPI Act at any time. Even when a resource authority holder is relying on an exemption, it must still have an appropriate agreement in place with the land owner under the [land access framework](#) before carrying out [advanced activities](#). Advanced activities are activities that will have more than a minor impact. This may include a:

- Conduct and Compensation Agreement
- Deferral Agreement
- Opt-Out Agreement.

If a resource authority holder cannot reach a voluntary agreement with the land owner, the Section 22 exemption is not available. In that case, the resource authority holder must obtain a RIDA before carrying out the proposed resource activity.

## 6. How is a land owner involved in the RIDA assessment process?

The RPI Act includes a notification and consultation process for RIDA applications. At a minimum, the applicant must notify any land owners affected by the RIDA application. The applicant must give the land owner a copy of the application within five business days after lodging it with the Chief Executive. Some RIDA applications may also be publicly notified. This decision is made by the Chief Executive of the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning. When deciding whether public notification is needed, the Chief Executive considers the possible impacts of the resource activity on:

- the area of regional interest
- individual properties within the area of regional interest.

Where public notification occurs, land owners and other interested parties may make a formal submission.

## 7. Can a neighbouring land owner be involved in the RIDA process?

A neighbouring land owner, or any interested person, may make a submission if the RIDA application is publicly notified. If the application is not publicly notified, neighbouring land owners will generally not be notified of the application.

## 8. How are land owner views considered in decision making?

The Chief Executive must consider all properly made submissions before deciding the RIDA application.

## 9. Can a land owner appeal a RIDA decision?

Yes. Appeals to RIDA decisions can be made to the [Planning and Environment Court](#), and can be lodged by the applicant, the land owner affected by the RIDA or another [affected land owner](#).

## 10. Where can I find more information?

More information and RPI Act fact sheets are available on the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning [website](#), or phone **1300 967 433** or email [rpiact@dasilgp.qld.gov.au](mailto:rpiact@dasilgp.qld.gov.au).

### For more information

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# RPI Act assessment process flowchart

