The purpose of screening

The purpose of screening is to determine:

- whether or not a proposal requires an EIA
- what level of EIA is required
Outcomes of screening

- full or comprehensive EIA required
- more limited EIA required
- further study needed to determine EIA requirement
- no further requirement for EIA
Screening and scoping compared

Screening
- determines the requirement for EIA
- establishes the level of review necessary

Scoping
- identifies the key issues and impacts
- establishes the terms of reference
Screening methods

- legal/policy definition
- inclusion list of projects (with or without thresholds)
- exclusion list of projects
- criteria for case-by-case screening
A framework for screening

- **Mandatory EIA**
  - 'Inclusive' threshold
  - EIA more likely to be required; screen borderline proposals for significant environmental effects

- **Case by case consideration of requirement for EIA**
  - 'Indicative' threshold
  - EIA less likely to be required but still seen for significance where the location is sensitive or if there is a potential for cumulative effects

- **EIA ruled out**
  - 'Exclusion' threshold
  - ...
Extended screening methods

- initial environmental evaluation or examination (IEE)
- environmental overview
- class screening
Typical proposals requiring a full EIA

- dams and reservoirs
- (re)settlement and urban development
- infrastructure (e.g. transport and sanitation)
- industrial facilities (e.g. manufacturing plants)
- energy and minerals extraction (e.g. oil & gas, coal)
- waste management and disposal of hazardous and toxic materials
- energy development (power stations, transmission lines, pipelines)
Location and environmental criteria for case-by-case screening

The following are important in determining significant effects:

- assimilative capacity of the natural environment
- environmental sensitivity, e.g. wetlands, coastal and mountain zones
- environmental standards and objectives
- adjacent to protected or designated areas
- within landscapes of special heritage value
- existing land use(s) and commitments
- abundance and quality of natural resources
Extended screening
- information required by decision-makers

- description of the proposal
- conditions and characteristics of the environment
- applicable policy, planning and regulatory objectives
- identification of potential impacts
- degree of public concern and interest
An Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)

- describes the proposal
- considers alternatives
- addresses the concerns of the community
- identifies potential environmental effects
- establishes mitigation measures
- includes monitoring and follow up (as necessary)
Generalised EIA Process Flowchart

Proposal Identification

Screening

EIA Required

Scoping

Initial environmental examination

*Public involvement

No EIA

Impact analysis

Mitigation and impact management

EIA Report

Review

*Public involvement

Decision-making

Not approved

Approved

Implementation and follow up

*Public involvement typically occurs at these points. It may also occur at any other stage of the EIA Process.

Information from this process contributes to effective future EIA