

Generation authority guidance



Queensland
Government

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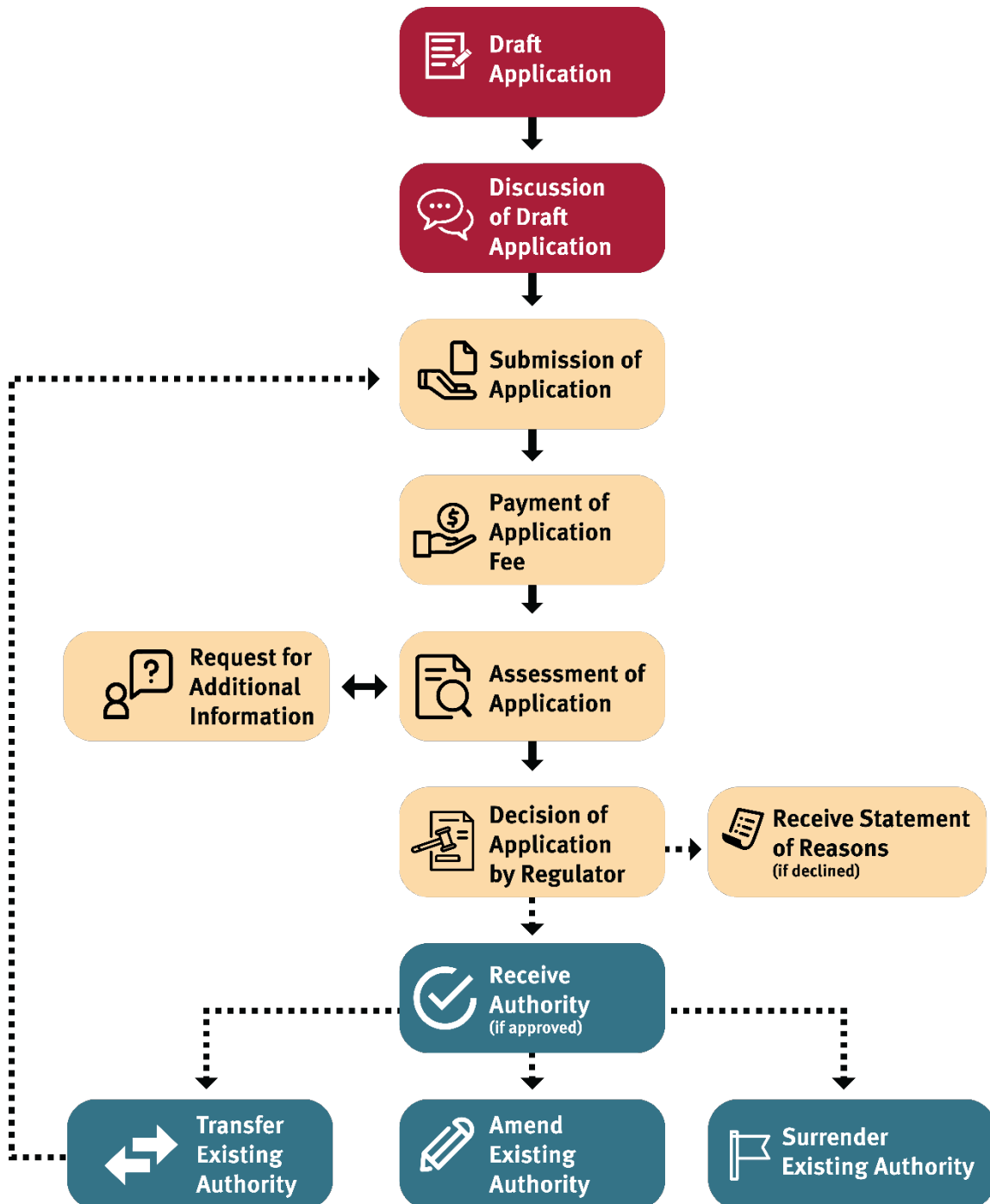
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Purpose of guidance

This guidance contains information designed to assist prospective applicants with preparing and applying for a generation authority and includes information on:

- applications for a new generation authority
- amending or transferring an existing generation authority
- surrendering a generation authority

Process flowchart



What is a generation authority

A generation authority authorises the holder to connect a generating plant (generally with a capacity of 30 megawatts (MW) or greater) to either a transmission, distribution or other supply network.

The requirement to obtain a generation authority is separate from any generation registration processes required by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and does not relieve its holder or anyone else from complying with laws applying to the development, building, operation or maintenance of generation plant.

Where generating capacity is less than 30 MW, a deemed special approval (under Section 130 of the *Electricity Regulation 2006*) allows for the connection the generating plant to a transmission grid, distribution or other supply network. No application is required for a deemed special approval.

How to apply

All applications must be submitted electronically to energyregulation@dnrme.qld.gov.au.

To apply for a new generation authority or transferring an existing authority you must use the [approved form](#). For amendments to an existing authority please see 'Application requirements' below.

When to apply

Common application scenarios are provided in the table below.

Application reason	New	Transfer	Amend	Surrender
New generating plant project	✓			
Change of operator (ABN will change)		✓		
Extension of term			✓	
Change of operator name (no ABN change)			✓	
Changes to generation plant			✓	
Any other changes to generation authority			✓	
End of plant life				✓
Project did not proceed				✓
Early plant closure				✓

As a guide, applicants for a new generation authority should apply after the project has reached financial close. In order to issue a generation authority the Regulator must be satisfied that the applicant will operate the generating plant, financial close provides sufficient certainty that the generating plant will operate.

Applications for transfers should be submitted as soon as the new proposed operator is confirmed.

All amendments must be submitted at least four (4) months prior to the authority expiring.

Timeframes

Applicants should allow around four (4) months for the assessment of new applications, amendments and transfers, following receipt of all required documentation. For more complex assessments, additional time may be required.

Application requirements

The approved forms contain a full guideline of what must be provided to support your application for a new generation authority or transfer. A summary of key documents to support an application are included in the approved forms. Additional supporting documentation may be included as required.

When applying for an amendment include details on:

- what requires amendment
- why and when the amendment is required
- any supporting documentation.

Applicants can refer to Sections 178 – 185 of the *Electricity Act 1994* for the specific legislative requirements the Regulator considers for new applications, transfers, amendments and surrender.

Application fees

Application fees are required to apply for a new generation authority and to apply for a transfer of an existing generation authority. There are no application fees to amend or surrender an existing generation authority. Fee amounts are available on [our website](#).

The Department will issue an invoice for the applicable fee after receiving the full application. Please provide proof of payment as soon as possible via email.

An application is not deemed complete until the application fee has been paid.

Application assessment

The Regulator will consider the relevant legislative requirements during an application assessment, including the 'objects of the Act', in order to determine whether to support or refuse an application. Throughout the assessment process the Department may contact you to request additional information.

Consideration of the application includes assessing:

- technical capability
- financial capability
- honesty and integrity
- environmental effects
- the project compatibility with the Objects of the *Electricity Act 1994*

- the project compatibility with relevant government policies about environmental and energy issues
- certainty the applicant will operate the generating plant stated in the application
- confidence the generating plant will be able to provide electricity of a quality suitable for the transmission grid or supply network to which it is to be connected.

As part of the application process for a new generation authority, the Regulator will publish a notification in a State-wide newspaper inviting submissions on the proposed generation authority. This will include an information paper, published on the Department's website, which you will have an opportunity to review prior to publication. You will have the opportunity to respond to any issues raised in submissions. The Regulator must consider any submissions received when making the decision to approve or refuse an application.

Issuing a generation authority

The Regulator may include specific conditions when issuing a generation authority and in cases where an application is refused, the reasons for the refusal will be provided to the applicant.

Before a generation authority is issued, you will have an opportunity to review the draft authority, including all terms and conditions.

A [generation authority proforma](#) is available on the Department's website. The proforma should be read in conjunction with the *Electricity Act 1994* and the *Electricity Regulation 2006*, which contain conditions applicable to generation authorities.

A generation authority will include the name plate capacity of the generation plant that was provided in the application. This capacity will determine the annual fee for the electricity licence, available on [our website](#). For inverter-based generation plants, such as solar farms, the inverter capacity is deemed to be the name plate capacity.

Request to surrender a generation authority

Requests to surrender a generation authority must be submitted via email to energyregulation@dnrme.qld.gov.au at least six (6) months prior to it taking effect. If the generation authority specifies a longer surrender notice period, then provided to the Regulator within that notice period.

The Regulator may agree to a shorter notice period for surrender requests in a particular case, this would be based on the circumstances involved and in consultation between the authority holder and the Regulator.

Contact the Department

The Department suggests potential applicants contact us with a completed draft application to discuss any further requirements prior to submitting a final application.

Electricity licensing enquiries	
Email	energyregulation@dnrme.qld.gov.au
Telephone	13 43 87