

Transmission Authority Guidance



Queensland
Government

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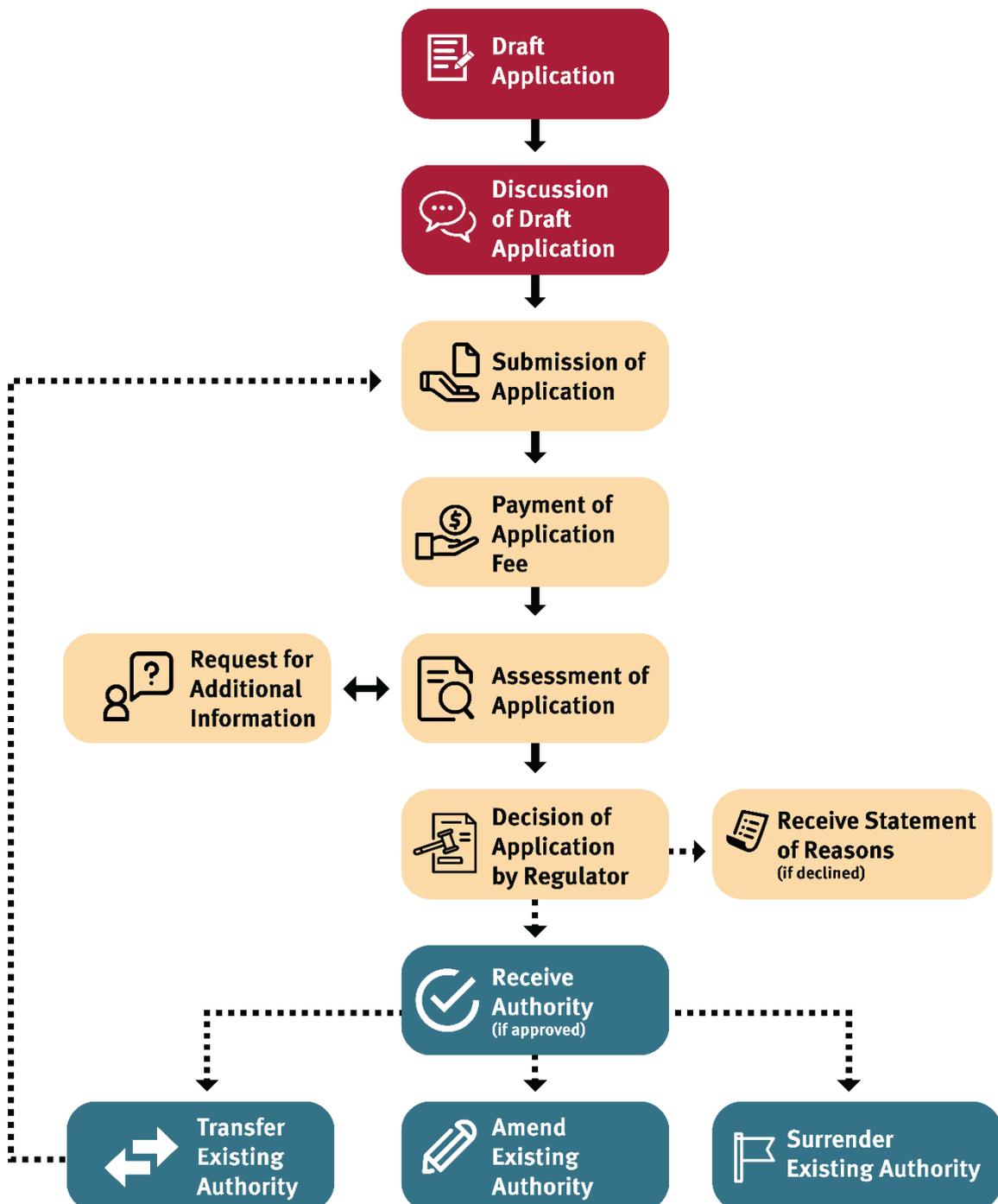
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Purpose of guidance

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

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

Process flowchart



What is a Transmission Authority

A transmission authority authorises its holder to operate a transmission grid in Queensland, including connection of a transmission grid to other transmission networks.

The requirement to obtain a transmission authority is separate from any transmission registration processes required by the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and Australian Energy Regulator (AER).

A transmission authority does not relieve its holder or anyone else from complying with laws applying to the development, building, operation or maintenance of a transmission grid.

How to apply

All applications must be submitted electronically to energy.regulation@epw.qld.gov.au.

To apply for a new transmission 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 transmission grid project	✓			
Change of operator (ABN will change)		✓		
Extension of term			✓	
Change of operator name (no ABN change)			✓	
Changes to transmission grid			✓	
Any other changes to transmission authority			✓	
Project did not proceed				✓
Early plant closure				✓

As a guide, applicants for a new transmission authority should apply after the project has reached financial close. In order to issue a transmission authority the Regulator must be satisfied that the applicant will operate the transmission grid, financial close provides sufficient certainty that the transmission grid 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 transmission 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 186 – 194 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 transmission authority and to apply for a transfer of an existing transmission authority. There are no application fees to amend or surrender an existing transmission 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 approve 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 of the transmission grid
- projects compatibility with the Objects of the *Electricity Act 1994*

- projects compatibility with relevant government policies about environmental and energy issues
- certainty the applicant will operate the transmission grid stated in the application
- confidence the transmission grid has the technical capabilities to provide for transmission of electricity of a quality likely to be needed to be transmitted through the transmission grid
- confidence the proposed transmission of electricity will be adequate, safe and reliable.

As part of the application process for a new transmission authority, the Regulator will publish a notification in a State-wide newspaper inviting submissions on the proposed transmission 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 Transmission Authority

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

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

A [transmission authority proforma](#) is available on the Department's website.

Note: the proforma should be read in conjunction with the *Electricity Act 1994* and the *Electricity Regulation 2006*, which contain conditions applicable to transmission authorities.

Request to surrender a Transmission Authority

Requests to surrender a transmission authority must be submitted via email to energy.regulation@epw.qld.gov.au at least six (6) months prior to it taking effect. If the transmission 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 Licencing Enquiries	
Email	energy.regulation@epw.qld.gov.au
Telephone	13 43 87