

Fact sheet: New Compulsory Land Acquisition for pipelines process guideline

The NSW Government has released a draft guideline to clarify the Compulsory Land Acquisition process under section 22(1)(d)(ii) of the *Pipelines Act 1967*. You have an opportunity to have your say on the guideline before it is finalised.

What is Compulsory Land Acquisition?

Under the *Pipelines Act 1967*, land and easements can be compulsorily acquired for pipeline projects. Compulsory acquisition of land or easements can significantly affect landowners. While the legal powers under the *Pipelines Act 1967* remain unchanged, stakeholders have told us the process can be difficult to navigate. The guideline will:

- make the acquisition process more transparent and easier to follow for both licensees and landowners
- ensure landowners and communities are properly informed and consulted on the process
- ensure consistency and accountability by pipeline licensees.

What the guideline provides

The guideline is intended to explain to licence applicants and landowners:

- a clear, step-by-step process
- how the Minister for Energy (the Minister) and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department) assess compulsory acquisition requests
- minimum standards for engagement with affected landowners and communities.

What is staying the same

There is no change to what is required under the *Pipelines Act 1967*:

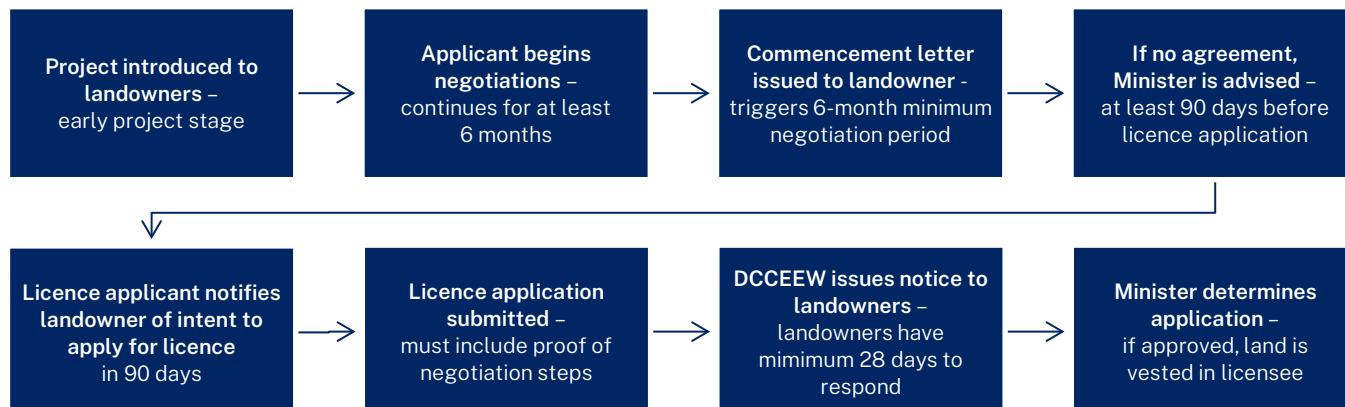
- The legal powers and steps set out in the *Pipelines Act 1967* remain unchanged.
- Pipeline licensees can still apply for compulsory acquisition where needed.
- The Minister for Energy continues to make the final decision.

More information

[Pipelines | NSW Climate and Energy Action](#)

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The Compulsory Acquisition process at a glance



Summary of rights and responsibilities	
What licence applicants must do	Landowners' rights
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate in good faith, seeking to reach agreement with landowners for at least 6 months. Cover landowners reasonable legal and valuation costs. Provide clear and timely information (e.g. project purpose, valuation reports, offers). Document every step – correspondence, meetings, and offers made. Notify the Minister at least 90 days before submitting a licence application including compulsory acquisition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be informed early about the project and the potential route across their property. Have material available to understand the process of proposed acquisition if a negotiated agreement cannot be reached. Seek legal and valuation advice – costs to be covered by the licence applicant. Make a compensation claim. Provide feedback to the Minister during the 28-day notice period.

FAQ

Does the guideline change the law or the acquisition process?

While the guideline does not change the law, it provides updated guidance on the reasonable steps that pipeline licence applicants must take.

Can licensees still apply for compulsory acquisition?

Yes. Pipeline licensees can still apply for compulsory acquisition of land or easements, as allowed under the Act. The guideline helps ensure they follow good practice and engagement expectations.

Do landowners still have the same rights?

Yes. Landowners still have the same legal rights and protections. The guidelines aim to strengthen communication and engagement, so landowners are better informed throughout the process.

What role does the Minister play?

The Minister Energy must still be satisfied that the applicant has undertaken all reasonable steps to reach a negotiated agreement with the landowner. This hasn't changed.