

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

1. ACCESS ALL REPORTS FOR DEVELOPMENT
2. READ ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
3. DETERMINE TARGET ORCHID SPECIES
4. ASSESS IF SURVEY WAS DONE AT CORRECT TIME FOR ORCHID
5. NOTE ALL ORCHID SPECIES LISTED IN REPORT
6. READ OTHER REPORTS FROM SAME SURVEYOR
7. VERIFY IF THESE ARE HONEST AND CONCUR WITH TERMS OF REFERENCE
8. CHECK METHOD OF SURVEY, TRANSECT WIDTH OR MEANDER
9. LOOK FOR ANYTHING UNEXPECTED IN SURVEY FINDINGS
10. DETERMINE IF ALL WORK WAS COMPLETED PRIOR TO CLOSE OF SUBMISSIONS

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES

- [NSW Office of Environment and Heritage](#)
- [Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment](#)
- [Queensland Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [South Australia Department for Environment and Heritage](#)
- [Western Australia - Department of Environment and Conservation](#)
- [Tas Department of Environment, Parks, Heritage and the Arts](#)
- [NT Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport](#)
- [ACT Territory and Municipal Services](#)

EXPLANATION OF 10 POINTS

1. When a development of any type is proposed, an Environmental Assessment Report (EA) will be required. All of these reports will be available for public comment on a Website in PDF form, depending on whether the development is for a local council, state or federal government or a private company. This could be anything from a sporting field, shopping centre, highway, prison or any type of mine or port. These reports will be available on the Website under Major Development or a similar title and you will need to check, the council Website or state or federal government but all will be advertised in a local, major city or national newspaper.
2. You will need to read the entire report and it could contain difficult issues such as traffic, bridge or road construction, among many other things.
3. In the environmental section there will be a target species and it could be one or more orchids or any other species of flora and/or fauna.
4. If the target species is an orchid, make sure it is the correct species (for the area) and ensure there are no other endangered species in the area which have not been mentioned. Local knowledge is good for this. Also make sure the survey has been undertaken at a time where the orchid is sure to be in flower. This does not always occur.
5. Note all orchid species listed in the report and match these with your knowledge of the area. Local knowledge again.
6. Read any other reports done by the person/s that has done the report.
7. By doing point six you will then be able to determine if the EA is honest and complies with the requirements in the conditions. These conditions are usually set by the Director General (DG) of NPWS or in Queensland it could be the EPA. In NSW this is the DG of the Office of Environment and Heritage. My experience tells me these conditions are not always complied with.
8. Check the method of survey used by those responsible for the survey. What were they looking for? If it was a small terrestrial orchid, did they search every square metre of the site? I am informed by the Qld Environment Minister that EA's in Qld are carried out over more than one season. See attached letters. The Random Meander letter was sent to every environment minister in Australia. All but the NT minister responded. This is a most important point.
9. It is always a possibility that something unexpected is located during these surveys but it depends on the **ability** and **honesty** of the person

concerned. This may be due to certain companies and or governments (usually councils) who regularly use the same person or company because that is the easy way to guarantee the required result. Scrupulously honest EA surveyors are not wealthy, usually due to lack of work.

- 10.** I know of more than one instance where EA work was still being undertaken after the closing date for public submissions has closed. This means any findings from the late work are not in the final report and are never seen by the public, therefore no comment can be made. This late report could be the critical factor and it may not just be accidental. My cynicism is strong regarding this and several other points I have listed.