Development Coordination Authority referral guidance

Guidance for Planning Proposals Online and Major Projects users

November 2026

DCA now coordinates advice on matters that would previously have been referred to a number of NSW Government agencies

This means who you need to engage with within Planning Proposals Online or the Major Projects Portal may have changed.

When to select DCA instead of an agency

Select **'Development Coordination Authority (DCA)'** when creating an engagement or referral in Planning Proposals Online or Major Projects if you would have previously referred the matter to any of the agencies or agency options listed in **Table 1.**

Before making a referral, review the exceptions outlined below in **Table 2**, including specific requirements relating to post-approval matters and direct agency consultation.

Table 1: When to select DCA instead of an agency

Select DCA if you would have previously referred to:	
DCCEEW – Biodiversity, including CPHR Regional Delivery	**Including:** • DPE – Biodiversity, Conservation and Science • Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Biodiversity Group • NSW DCCEEW CPHR
DCCEEW – Heritage	**Including:** • Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Heritage Group • DPE – Heritage NSW

Select DCA if you would have previously referred to:	
	• Heritage NSW – Aboriginal cultural heritage (ACH) • Heritage NSW – Heritage Council of NSW
DCCEEW – Water	Including: • Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water – Water Group • Dam Safety NSW • NSW DCCEEW Water Group • Dam Safety NSW
DCCEEW – Flood	Including: • Marine Coast Estuary Flood NSW DCCEEW
Environment Protection Authority	
DPIRD – Fisheries	Including: • Department of Primary Industries (Fisheries) • DPI Fisheries • DPI Fisheries – Marine Parks
DPIRD – Resources	Including: • Department of Regional NSW – Mining, Exploration & Geoscience • DPIE – Resources and Geoscience • Regional NSW – Mining Exploration & Geoscience (including Resources Regulator)
DPIRD – Agriculture	Including: • Department of Primary Industry – Agriculture • DPI Agriculture
State Emergency Service	Including: • NSW State Emergency Services (NSW SES) • NSW SES
Fire and Rescue NSW	

Select DCA if you would have previously referred to:	
NSW Rural Fire Service	**Including:** • Rural Fire Service
WaterNSW See ***Table 2*** - Specific consultation requirements	
Hunter Water Corporation See ***Table 2*** - Specific consultation requirements	
Transport for NSW See ***Table 2*** - Specific consultation requirements	**Including:** • Sydney Metro • Sydney Trains • Transport for NSW

Exceptions - When you must continue to contact an agency directly

Table 1: Exceptions requiring direct agency consultation

Exception	What you should do
Post approval matters	Some post approval matters must continue to be referred directly to the relevant agency. If you are unsure whether to refer a post-approval matter to DCA or the agency, contact the DCA Front Door at dca.enquiries@dphi.nsw.gov.au to seek clarification.
Specific consultation requirements	Continue to consult the relevant agency directly where a condition of consent, issued SEARs or an issued Gateway determination condition specifically refers to a requirement for consultation with **WaterNSW, Hunter Water Corporation, Transport for NSW, Sydney Metro** and/or **Sydney Trains**
Sydney Water matters	DCA currently coordinates Sydney Water matters for local development applications only. For State significant projects, planning proposals and State-led rezonings, continue to use established Sydney Water consultation processes.