

What is the State Assessment and Referral Agency (SARA)?

Ensuring better development outcomes for Queensland depends on good planning and a good development process.

SARA was established to coordinate the state's assessment and decision-making role in the development process.

Generally, local government is the assessment manager and responsible for managing the development assessment process. The state government also has an assessment role for some development proposals, for example where important heritage values, transport infrastructure or certain types of vegetation may be affected.

The image below illustrates the inter-relationship between a typical development process managed by local government and SARA's assessment and decision-making role.



How does SARA work?

The **Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning**, through SARA, is the prescribed decision maker for development applications requiring assessment by the state government.

A number of state government agencies, known as technical agencies, may become involved in different proposals depending on the type of proposal and expertise required. When a development proposal needs to be assessed by the state government, SARA requests advice from the relevant technical agency.

SARA uses advice from technical agencies to inform and guide its decision about how a proposal meets the state's agreed policy objectives which are outlined in the **State Development Assessment Provisions**.

When do you need to contact SARA?

Depending on the type of proposal or where it is being undertaken, state assessment may be required. You can find out whether a development proposal will require state assessment before lodging a development application by viewing SARA's online **mapping system** and the **Planning Regulation 2017**.

The **mapping system** shows the location of matters relevant to state assessment such as heritage places, state controlled roads, certain vegetation and coastal areas, which can be used in conjunction with the **Planning Regulation 2017** to determine if state assessment is required. If you are unsure about how to use the **mapping system**, whether state assessment is required, how a proposal will be assessed, or if you would like to discuss your proposal before lodging a development application, contact your **local SARA office** to ask for advice.

If local government is the assessment manager, the council may also identify in the confirmation notice they send to an applicant whether the application requires referral to SARA.

Where can I find more information?

You can find more information about SARA or the development process generally, here:

- [the state's role in development assessment](#)
- [a video explaining the role of SARA](#)
- [general information about the planning and development system.](#)

For local development matters, please contact your local council.

Visit the Planning website at planning.dsdmip.qld.gov.au