

EPA works approvals

What is a works approval?

A works approval is a document issued by EPA permitting, subject to certain conditions, the construction of a plant, the installation of equipment or the modification of a process. A works approval is required for industrial and waste management activities that have

A works approval is required for proposed works which will result in one or more of the following:

- a discharge of waste to the environment (to air, a waterway or land)
- an increase in, or alteration to, an existing discharge
- a change in the way waste is treated or stored.

How does EPA assess a works approval application?

EPA has up to four months to assess a works approval application and decide whether to issue the works approval or not. Submissions from the community and other stakeholders are sought during this time. EPA assesses the potential impact of the works against the requirements of the EP Act, and one or more of the State environment protection policies or other policies and guidelines.

Public comment

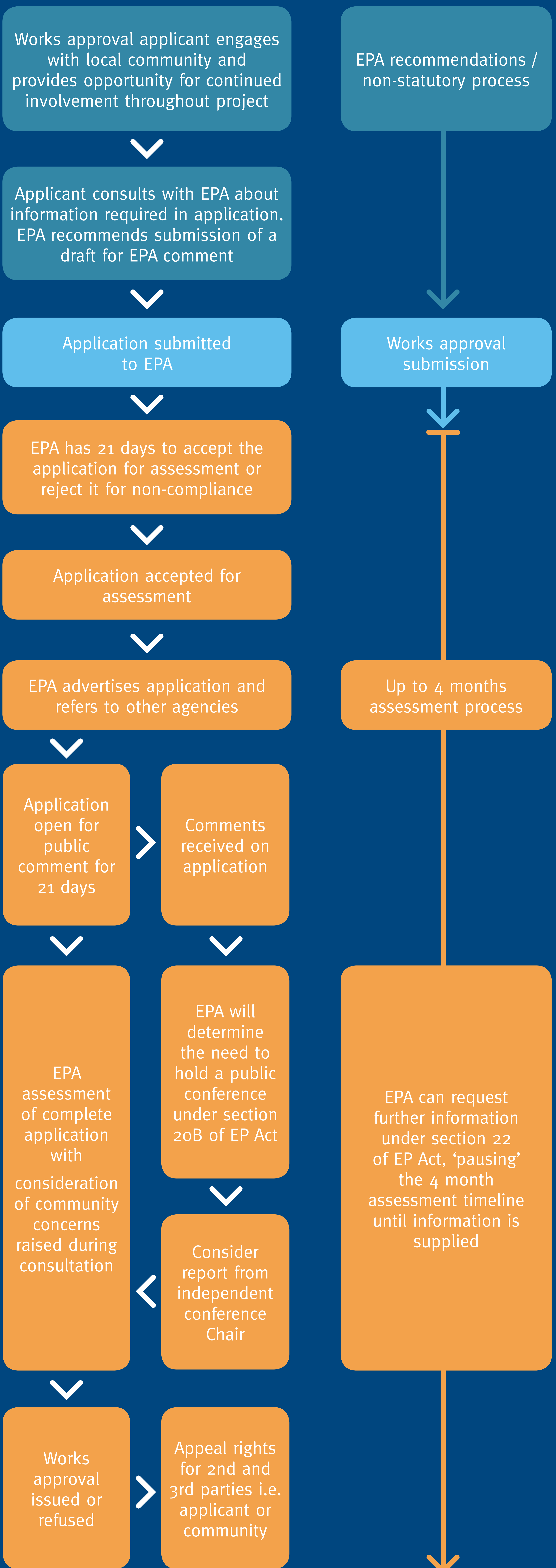
All works approval applications are advertised in local newspapers and the full works approval application can be downloaded. The works approval process includes a public comment stage, designed to identify any community concerns early, when they can most readily be resolved. EPA takes public submissions into account in deciding whether to issue a works approval. We may also call a meeting with interested parties.

What happens when EPA grants a works approval?

When a works approval application is approved, the approved works can commence, subject to the works approval holder having local government planning approval



The works approval process



EPA powers table

Decisions made

BY EPA ONLY	NOT BY EPA
Make sure the works meet requirements of the Environment Protection Act 1970.	Zoning or land use planning (council).
EPA assesses all emissions or discharges from the facility (other than lighting emissions) including energy and water use.	Truck routes, increased traffic, road emissions and damage to roads (VicRoads or council).
Make sure the works approval application meets the requirements of the Waste Management Policy.	
Ensure the facility is in accordance with best practice and Best Practice Environmental Management (BPEM) guideline (EPA Publication 788.1) requirements.	Hours of operation (council).
Make sure the work meet State Environment Protection Policies (SEPP) requirements for N1noise, air (odour, dust,) and water (discharges) pollutants.	
Make sure the works comply with the Industrial Waste Management Policy	Health and safety (Dept of Health, WorkSafe)
Noise and amenity issues associated with activities not at the site	Other noise
Give guidance for buffer distances. If recommended buffer distances are not met – make sure measures are taken to mitigate concerns.	Parks
Give consideration to impacts on third parties like local residents and businesses.	Flora and fauna (Dept of Environment & Primary Industries)
Refuse to issue approval if it is contrary to policy or is likely to cause pollution.	Fire (CFA)



“Did you feel that your concerns and issues were understood?”

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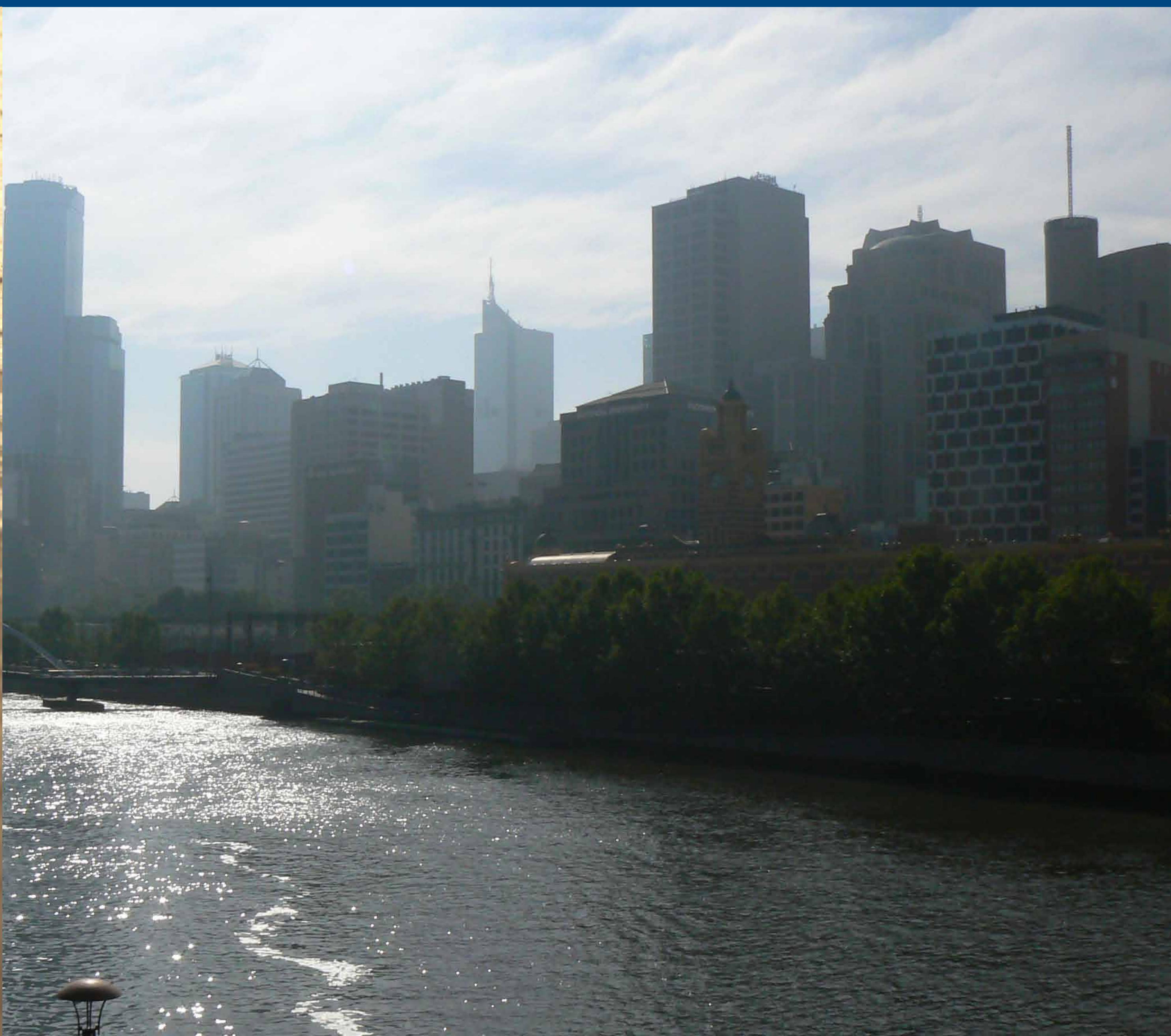
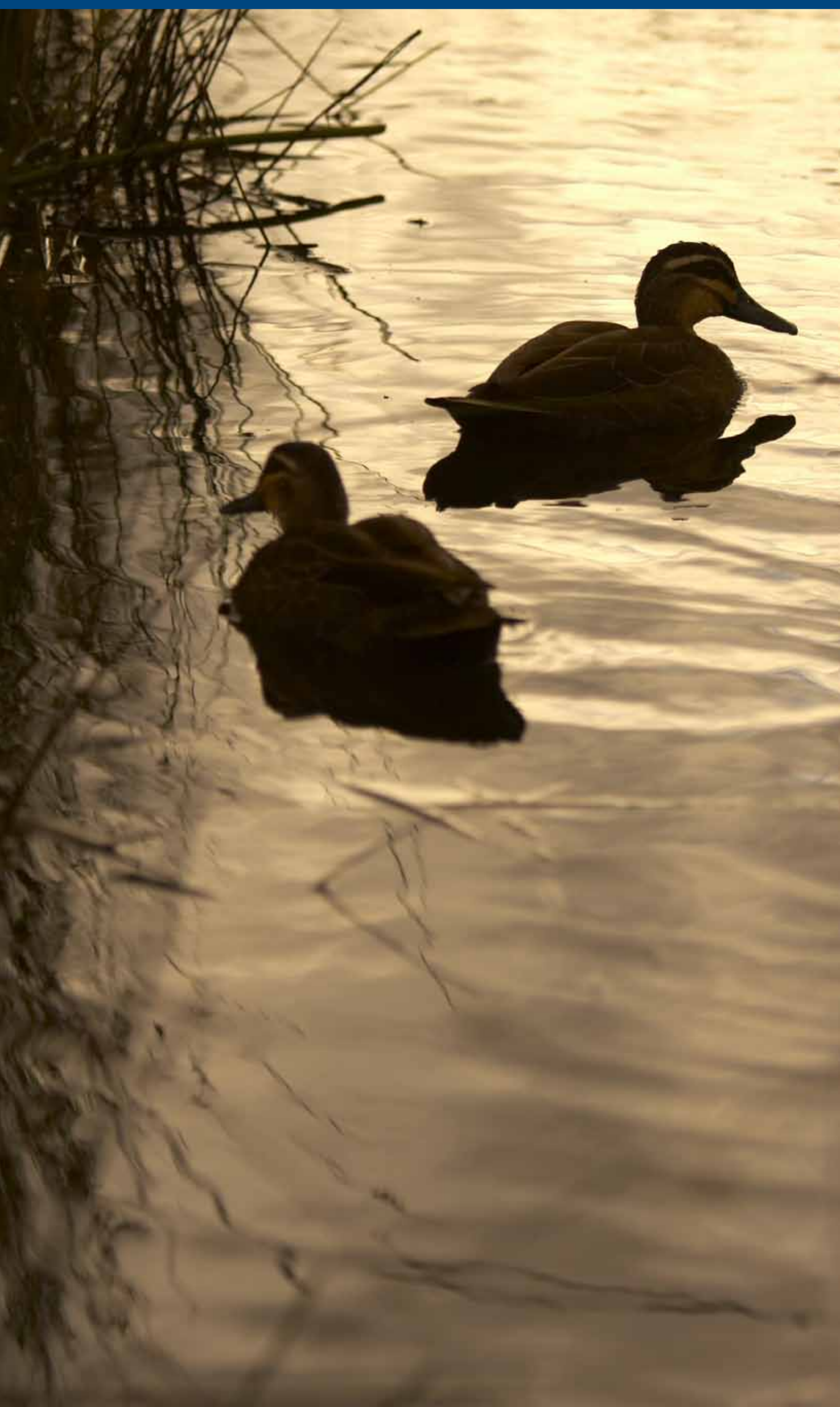


“Did you feel comfortable and able to participate?”

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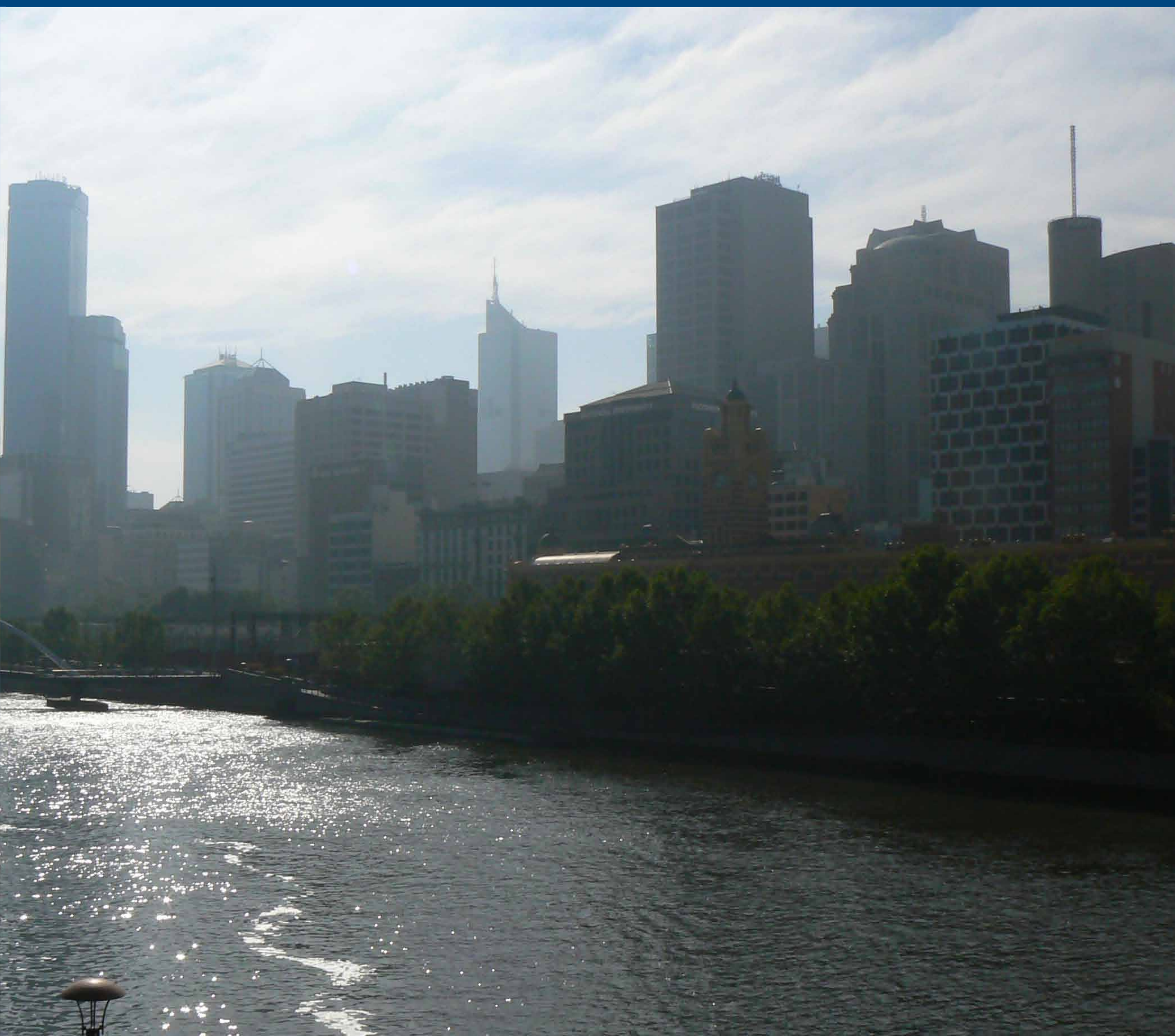


“I understand the Works Approval Process”

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“I understand
what EPA can
make decisions
about”

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