



Offshore  
Infrastructure  
Regulator

# Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act Framework

10 October 2024

[oir.gov.au](https://oir.gov.au)

Offshore Infrastructure Regulator



## Opening address



- Vision for a safe, environmentally responsible and sustainable Australian offshore wind industry
- Establishing a safe and proactive industry culture
- Community acceptance of offshore wind is contingent on genuine engagement and collaboration
- Developing trust to do our job effectively and maintaining social licence
- Proactive collaboration across industry and government will be key to developing a successful new sector in Australia



# Agenda

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Overview of the design notification scheme

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Overview of management plans

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OEI Act and EPBC Act interactions

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Overview of financial security requirements

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Overview of work health and safety

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Safety and protection zones

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Q&A

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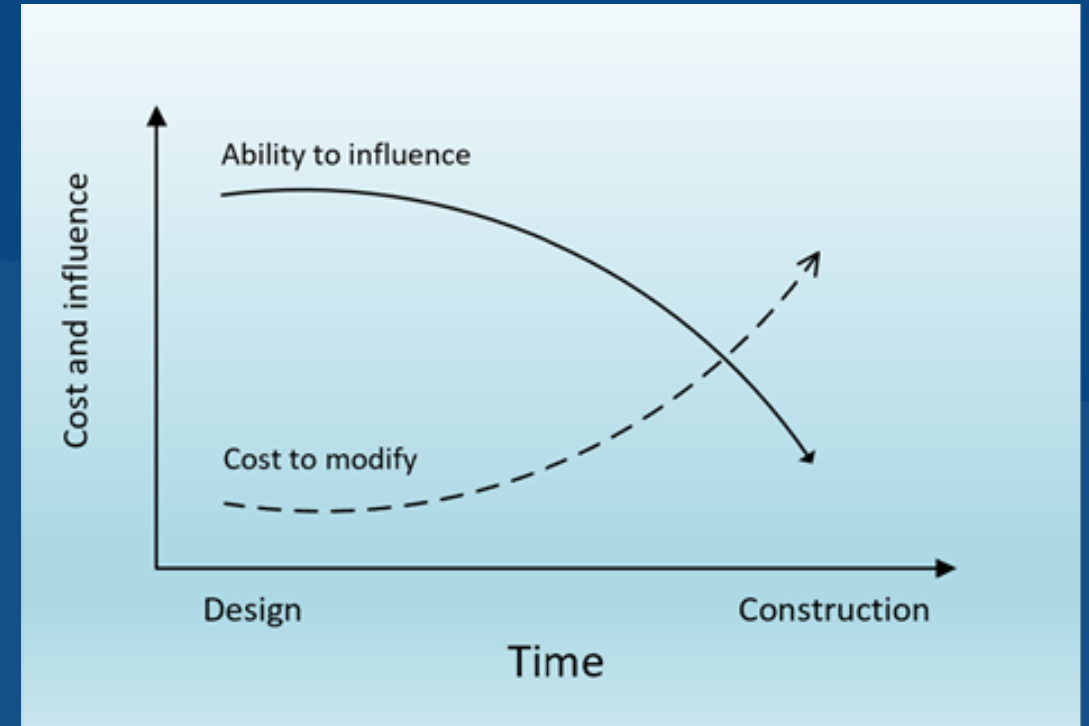


# Overview of the design notification scheme



# Purpose of design notification scheme

- Enables early engagement between the OIR and licence holders on design and concept selection
- Encourages consideration of safety, infrastructure integrity and environmental outcomes at the design phase
- Provides opportunity for the OIR to raise questions, concerns, and issues
- Provides opportunity to identify and mitigate risk during the planning and early stages of design
- Provides opportunity to consider how projects can be designed to minimise impacts to other marine users.

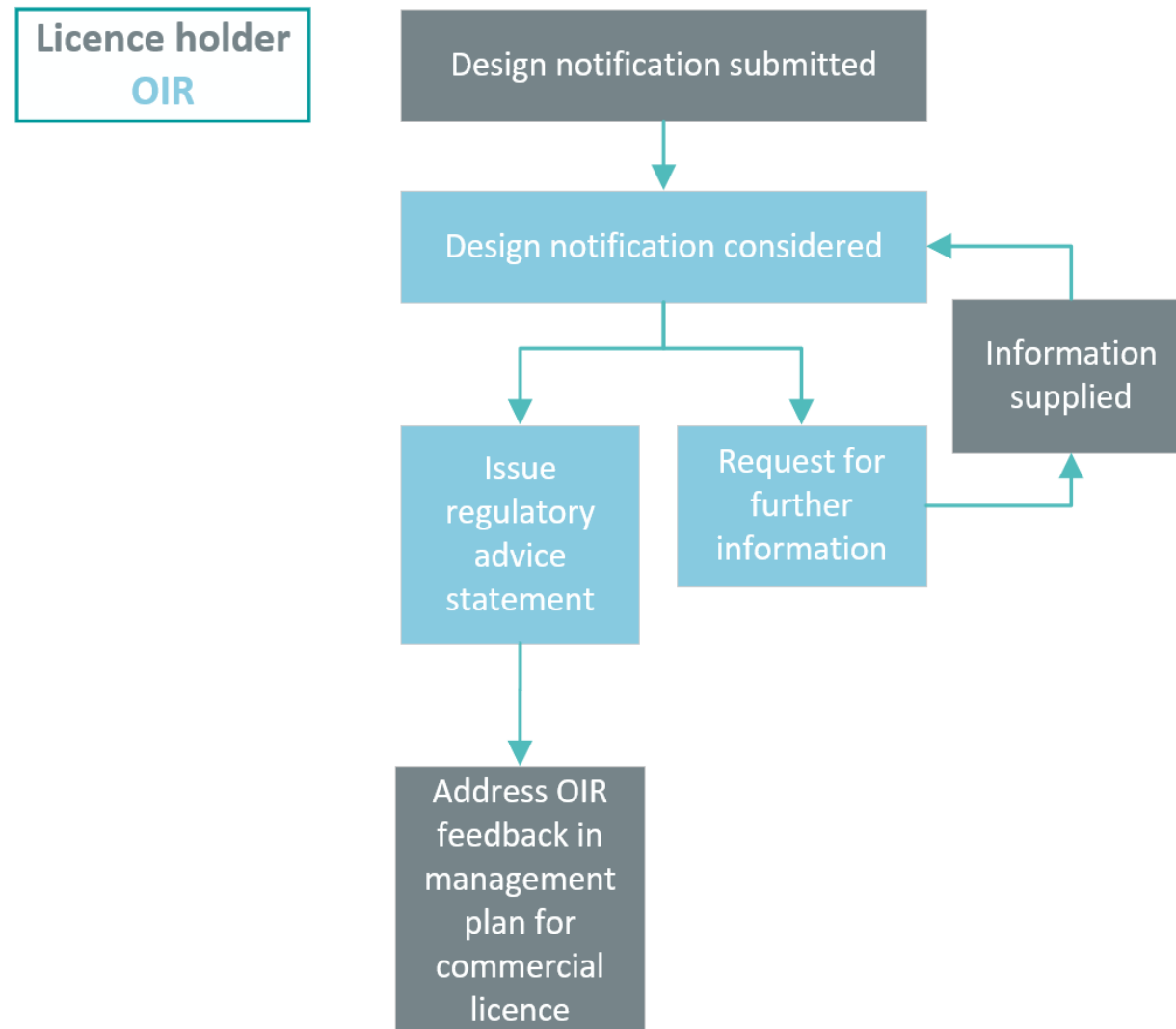


# Design notification content requirements

Include	a plan of the intended location or locations and the layout of the licence infrastructure
Describe	reasonably foreseeable meteorological and oceanographic conditions to which the licence infrastructure may be subject
Describe	the seabed and subsoil at the intended location or locations of the licence infrastructure
Explain	the process used to select the design of the licence infrastructure
Include	descriptions of how the licence infrastructure will be constructed, operated, maintained, decommissioned and removed
Include	descriptions of any significant risks or hazards that may arise from the location or locations, design, construction, operation, maintenance, decommissioning or removal of the licence infrastructure
Include	descriptions of proposed mitigation measures to deal with risks and hazards



# Design notification scheme process overview



# Overview of the management plan framework





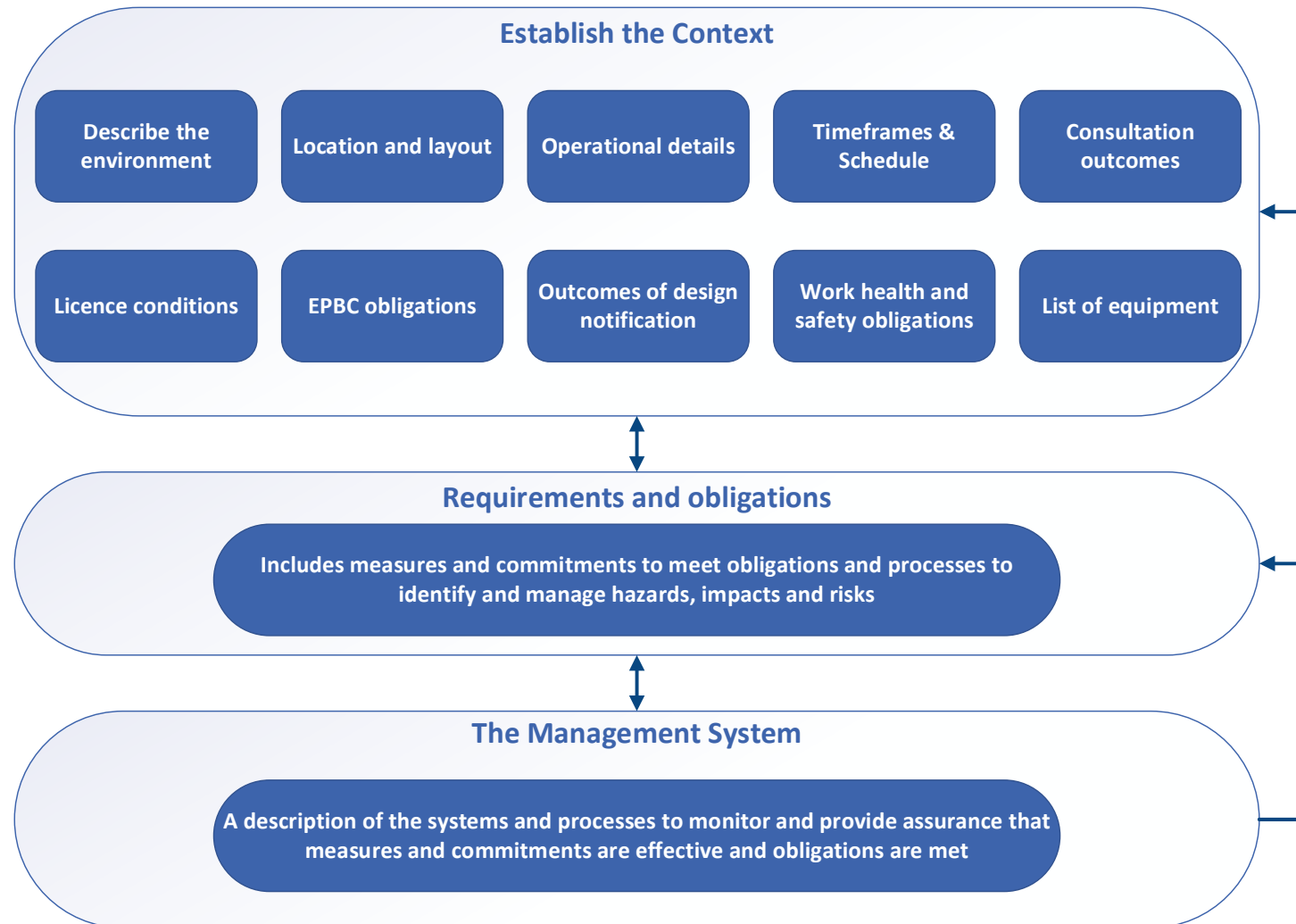
# Management plans - Key principles



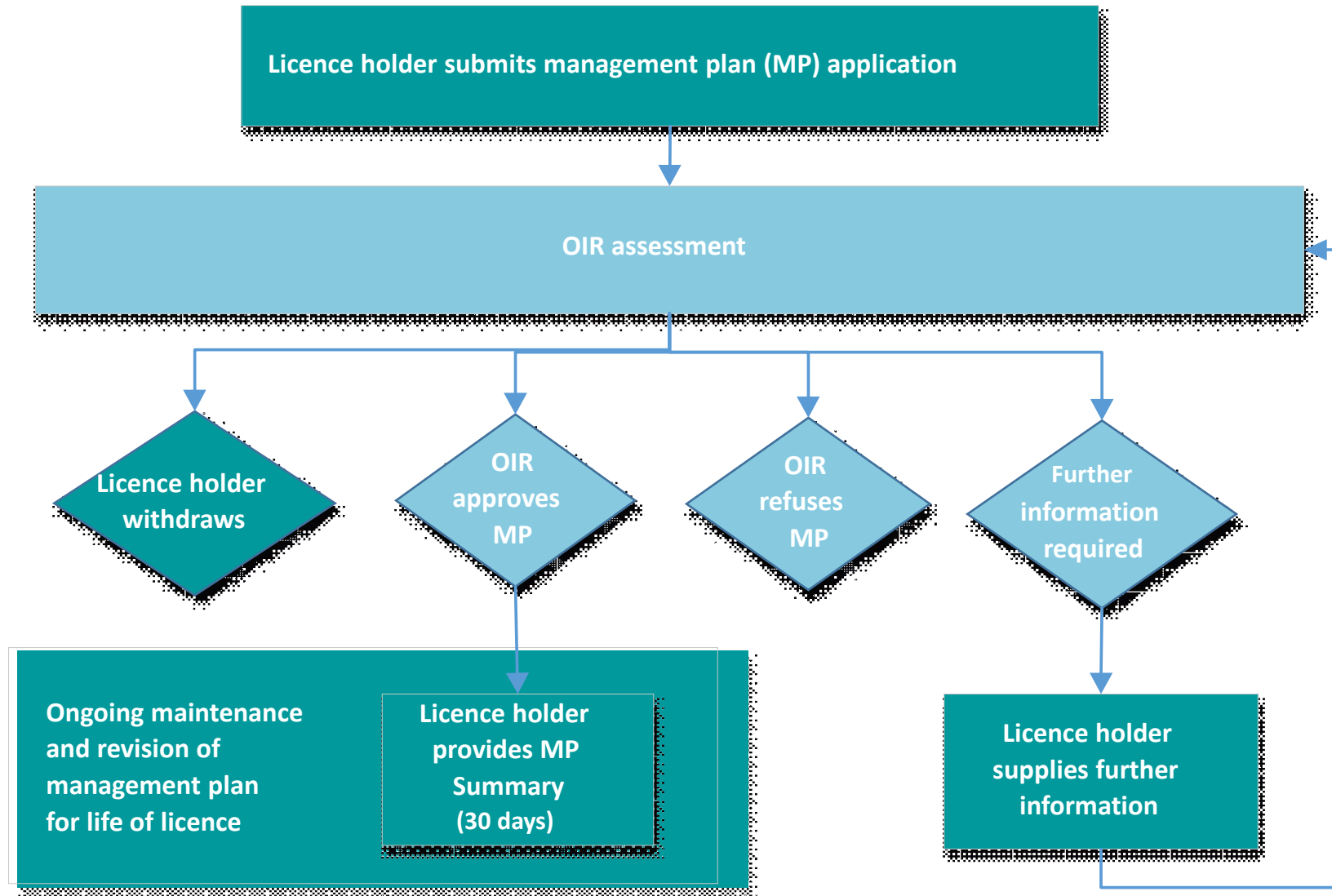
- Management plans will need to appropriately address all content requirements
- The scope of the management plan should be determined with regard to the nature and scale of the proposed activities to be conducted under a licence
- Documents the process used to identify and meet obligations for WHS, infrastructure integrity and environmental management
- Consider flexibility that may be needed to manage changes in circumstances



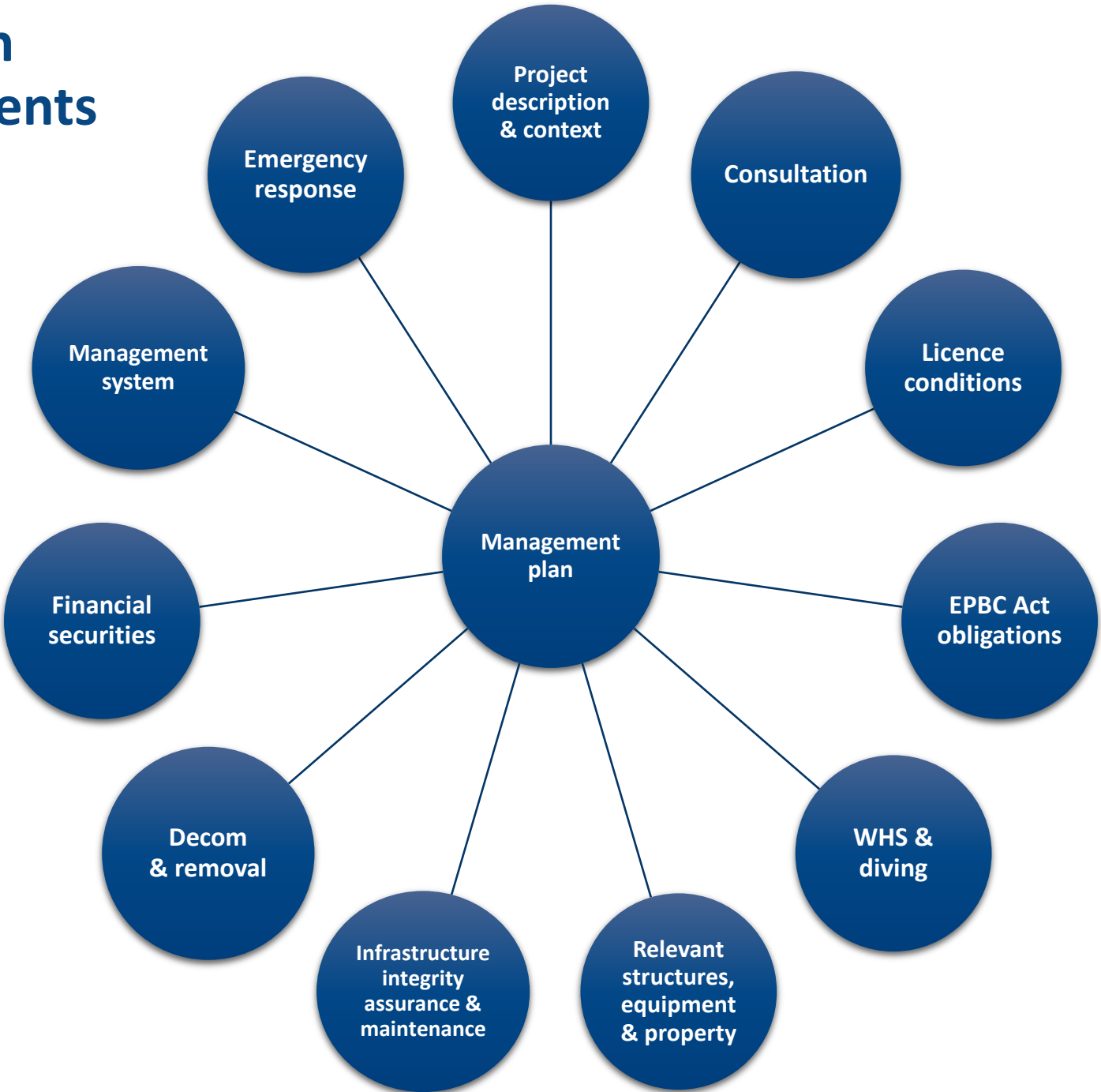
# Management plan core concepts



# Management plan assessment process overview



# Management plan content requirements

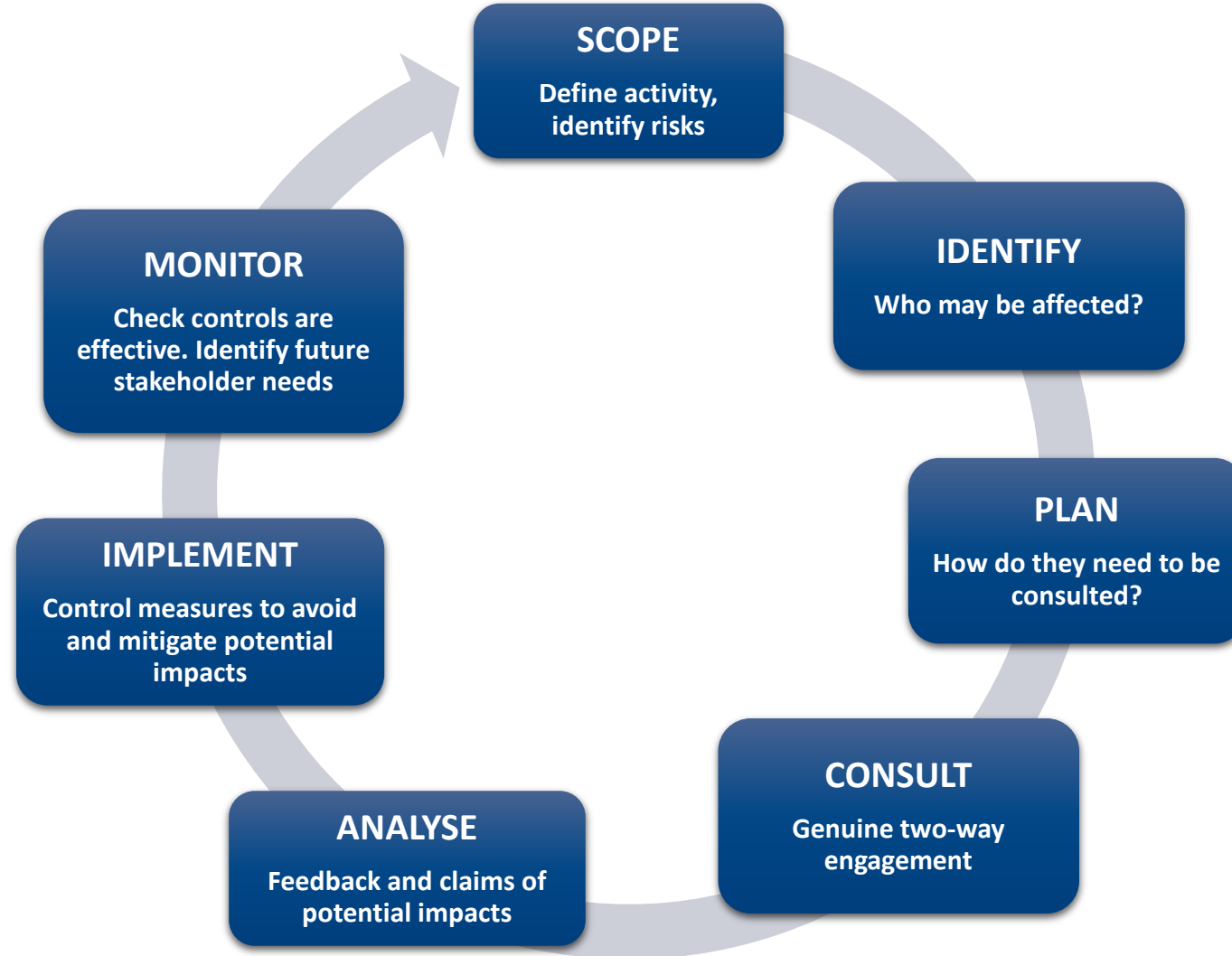


# Interaction with the EPBC Act

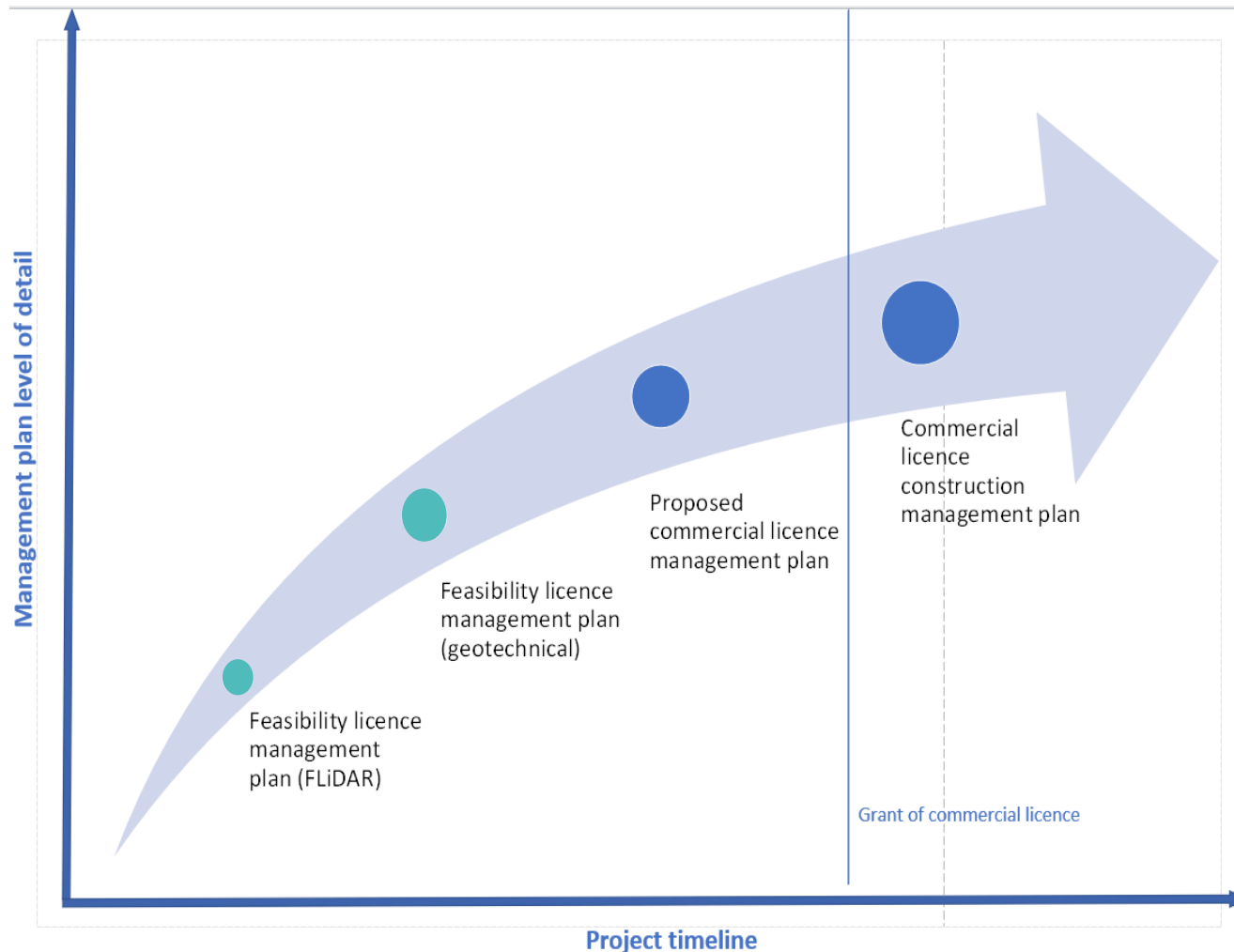
- A management plan must describe EPBC Act obligations in relation to licence activities:
  - demonstrate that activities described in management plan are consistent with the action described in the EPBC referral documentation and primary approvals
  - identify obligations of the EPBC Act and Regulations and any conditions of approval or 'particular manner' decisions
  - describe measures to ensure compliance with conditions
  - ensure management systems will implement measures and monitor compliance.
- Measures should be described so that their performance and compliance is able to be measured by the licence holder and verified by the OIR
- OIR will have administrative arrangements in place with DCCEW to enable efficient and effective information sharing with respect to compliance matters.



# Consultation



# Management plan – approvals approach



- There is one management plan for each licence which is to be periodically revised by the licence holder to address the activities and phases of an offshore infrastructure project
- A management plan is intended to be flexible and scalable
- Licence holders may submit a management plan for deployment of floating LiDAR and revise their management plan to include a geotechnical campaign.



# Financial security





# Financial security – Key principles

- The OEI Act requires all licence holders to have an approved management plan in place and to provide appropriate financial security to the Commonwealth before any offshore renewable energy infrastructure or offshore electricity transmission infrastructure can be installed.
- The amount of financial security must be sufficient for the Commonwealth to pay any costs, expenses and liabilities that may arise in relation to decommissioning, removal of property and equipment, remediation of areas affected by activities carried out under the licence and reasonably foreseeable unplanned events.



# Financial security process



# Financial security – management plan requirements

The management plan must address compliance with financial security requirements by setting out:

- The method used to calculate the amount of financial security to be provided
- How that method has been verified
- The amount that has been provided, and form or forms it has been provided in
- Describe any relevant Ministerial determinations in relation to accepted forms of financial security, and how the provided form(s) comply
- If financial security is to be provided at different times, includes a timetable for providing the financial security.



# Overview of work health and safety



# Work health and safety



- Recognising that the health and safety of the workforce is of paramount importance, the OEI framework has been designed to align with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and the associated Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011.
- Licence holders should be cognisant of modifications made through the applied WHS provisions when determining their WHS obligations.





# Addressing WHS in the management plan



- Describe in general terms the obligations that are relevant to the scope or scopes of work that are to be undertaken.
- Content should focus on the interfaces between the licence holder, other PCBU's and workers to ensure that the project as a whole is managed safely and that obligations under the applied work health and safety provisions can be met.
- Licence holders need to demonstrate the systems that will be in place to ensure that compliance with the applied WHS provisions is monitored and consistently maintained where work is being undertaken in the licence area.
- Identify authorisations relevant to activities to be conducted under an OEI Act licence.



# Safety and protection zones



# Safety zones

- The OEI Act provides for safety zones to be established around eligible safety zone infrastructure.
- The purpose of a safety zone is to protect the safety of workers and other marine users and to reduce the risks of damage to infrastructure.
- A safety zone prohibits the entry of unauthorised vessels for a defined period of time.
- Safety zones can extend up to a maximum distance of 500 metres and can only take effect at the commencement of installation and construction activities.
- Access to and transit by other marine users should not be restricted any more than is necessary and licence holders must consult other marine users.
- A register of determined safety zones will be published on the OIR's website.





# Protection zones

- Protection zones are more long term in nature.
- Protection zones can prohibit or restrict vessels from conducting certain types of activities that involve a serious risk to human safety or serious risk of damaging infrastructure.
- Protection zones can extend up to 1,852m either side of the infrastructure.
- Access to and transit by other marine users should not be restricted any more than is necessary.
- Licence holders must consult other marine users potentially impacted by the proposed restrictions.



Q&A



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