

THE DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION AUTHORITY (DCA) (JULY 2026)



KEY INFORMATION

Requirement	Notes
Referral Check	Required before referring a DA to DCA. Not required for modification applications.
Modifications	Refer only where a new referral is triggered or a referral condition is being changed.
Timeframe	DCA generally has 28 calendar days to respond.
Public submissions	Do not upload unless requested by DCA.
Golden rule	If the application was lodged on or after 1 July 2026 and the referral is to a NSW Government agency, the starting assumption is that it should now be referred to DCA, unless the legislation provides otherwise.

STEP 1 - WHAT FRAMEWORK APPLIES?

Application lodged	Referral framework
Before 1 July 2026	Apply the referral requirements that existed before 1 July 2026. Continue referring applications under the previous concurrence, consultation and integrated development framework.
On or after 1 July 2026	Apply the new referral framework. Most NSW Government referrals are now made to the DCA

STEP 2 - WHAT NOT TO SEND TO DCA?

Matter	Refer directly to
Airport safeguarding	Relevant airport operator
Defence aviation and communications	Commonwealth Department of Defence
Port operations	Relevant port operator
Western Sydney Airport	Western Sydney Airport Corporation
Aboriginal places of heritage significance	Local Aboriginal community
Willandra Lakes World Heritage	Willandra Lakes World Heritage Advisory Committee
Siding Spring Observatory	Siding Spring Observatory
Electricity infrastructure (where applicable)	Relevant electricity provider
Pipeline corridors	Relevant pipeline operator
ARTC level crossing referrals	Australian Rail Track Corporation
River Murray Victorian referrals	Victorian referral authorities
Other Commonwealth, interstate or private infrastructure operators	Relevant authority

STEP 3 - WHAT TO SEND TO DCA?

Matter	Referral
Biodiversity and threatened species	DCA
Bush fire matters	DCA
State heritage	DCA (or City of Sydney where delegated)
Aboriginal objects	DCA
Water management approvals	DCA
Fisheries and marine matters	DCA
Marine parks and aquatic reserves	DCA
Koala habitat corridors	DCA
Hospital helicopter airspace	DCA
EPA / Environment Protection Licence matters	DCA
Mining and petroleum matters	DCA
Dams	DCA
Mine subsidence	DCA
Classified roads and significant traffic	DCA
Rail corridor matters (where DCA is the referral authority)	DCA
Roads Act referrals	DCA
Sydney Water and Hunter Water referrals	DCA
Infrastructure corridors and State infrastructure	DCA
Places of public worship	DCA
Kosciuszko National Park resort development	DCA
Sydney drinking water catchment	DCA
Oyster aquaculture	DCA
Most other referrals previously made to NSW Government agencies	DCA