A Framework for Planning Strategic Transmission Infrastructure

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THE PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICE PLANNING UNIT

Key Objectives:-

- **CONSISTENCY IN PROJECT PROCESS**
- **PLANNING ADVICE AND SUPPORT**
- **CONFIDENCE BUILDING**
- **EXPERT PLANNING INPUT**
- **EXPERT ENVIRONMENTAL INPUT**

A 6-Phase Roadmap to a Planning Application

- Top Level Engagement: National, Regional & Local
- Preliminary Phase: The Technical Basis for the Project
- Phase One: The Information Gathering Phase
- Phase Two: The Evaluation Phase
- Phase Three: The Route Confirmation Phase
- Phase Four: The EIS and Application Preparation Phase

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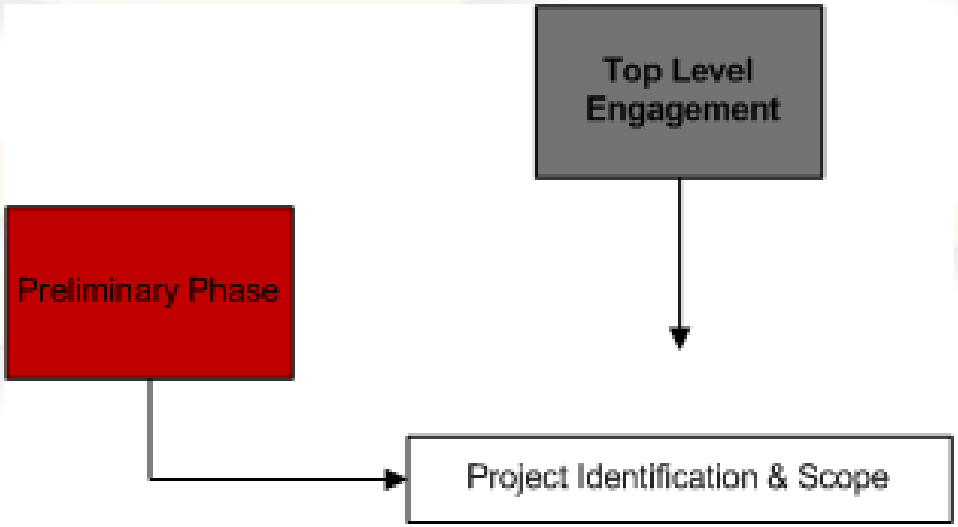
Top Level Engagement: National, Regional & Local

- Public Information campaign to inform National, Regional and local stakeholders of essential importance of grid development;
- How to balance National need with local concerns?
- National Advisory Forum;
- Regional Advisory Forum;
- Local consultation and messaging?

Preliminary Phase: The Technical Basis for the Project

- Documenting the technical need for a project;
- Identifying, defining, and challenging project scope;
- Technical basis/need will be challenged in application process.



Phase One: The Information Gathering Phase

Objectives

- To identify and map a **Study Area** for the project;
- To identify and map **environmental and other constraints** within the study area;
- To identify **potential route corridors/site locations**, including Consultants preference;
- To present **key messages** regarding the project to the public and stakeholders;
- To obtain initial **public/stakeholder input** regarding the project.

Phase One: The Information Gathering Phase contd.

Key Deliverables/Milestones

- Preparation of a **Study Area map and Rationale** for the project;
- Public/Stakeholder Input #1 – news notice, website – *"Tell Us.."*;
- Preparation of **Environmental/Other Constraints Maps**;
- Public/Stakeholder Input #2 – Open Day #1 – *"Tell Us..*;
- Identification of **Potential Indicative Corridors/Sites**;
- Publication of **Phase 1 Consultants Report**;
- Publication of **Other Phase 1 Reports**;
- Public/Stakeholder Input #3 – Open Day #2 – *"Tell Us.."*.

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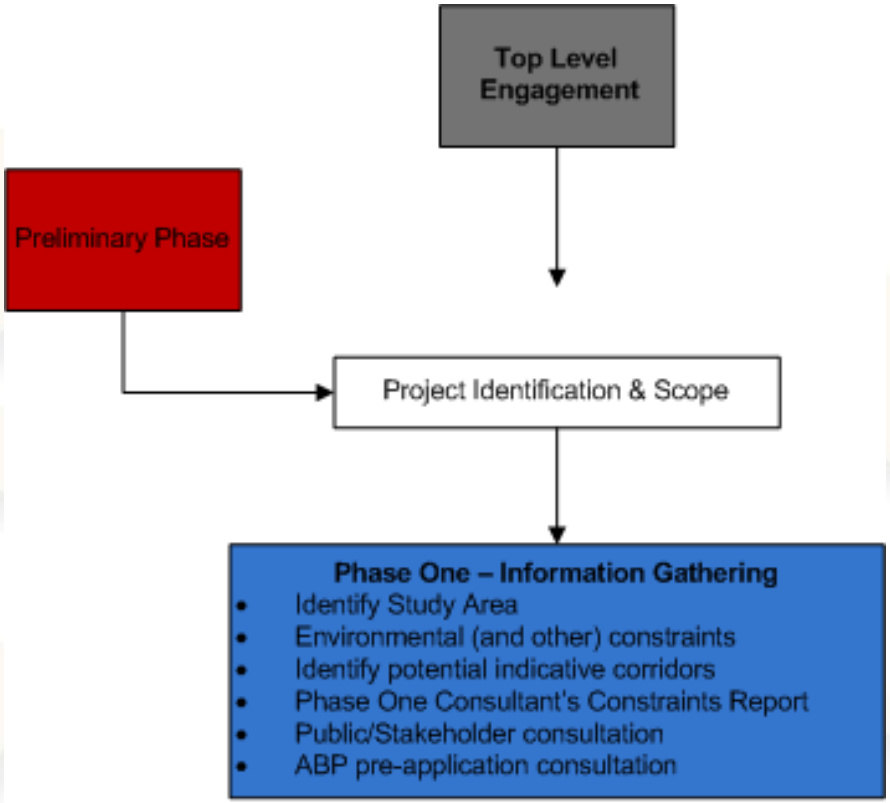

Phase One: The Information Gathering Phase

Phase Two: The Evaluation Phase

Objectives

- To carry out a **multi-criteria evaluation** of identified corridors/sites;
- Where necessary, to shortlist identified indicative corridors/sites;
- To **identify an emerging preferred corridor/site**;
- To **identify a potentially feasible route** within identified corridors;
- To continue to **present key messages** to public/stakeholders
- To obtain **ongoing public/stakeholder input** regarding project

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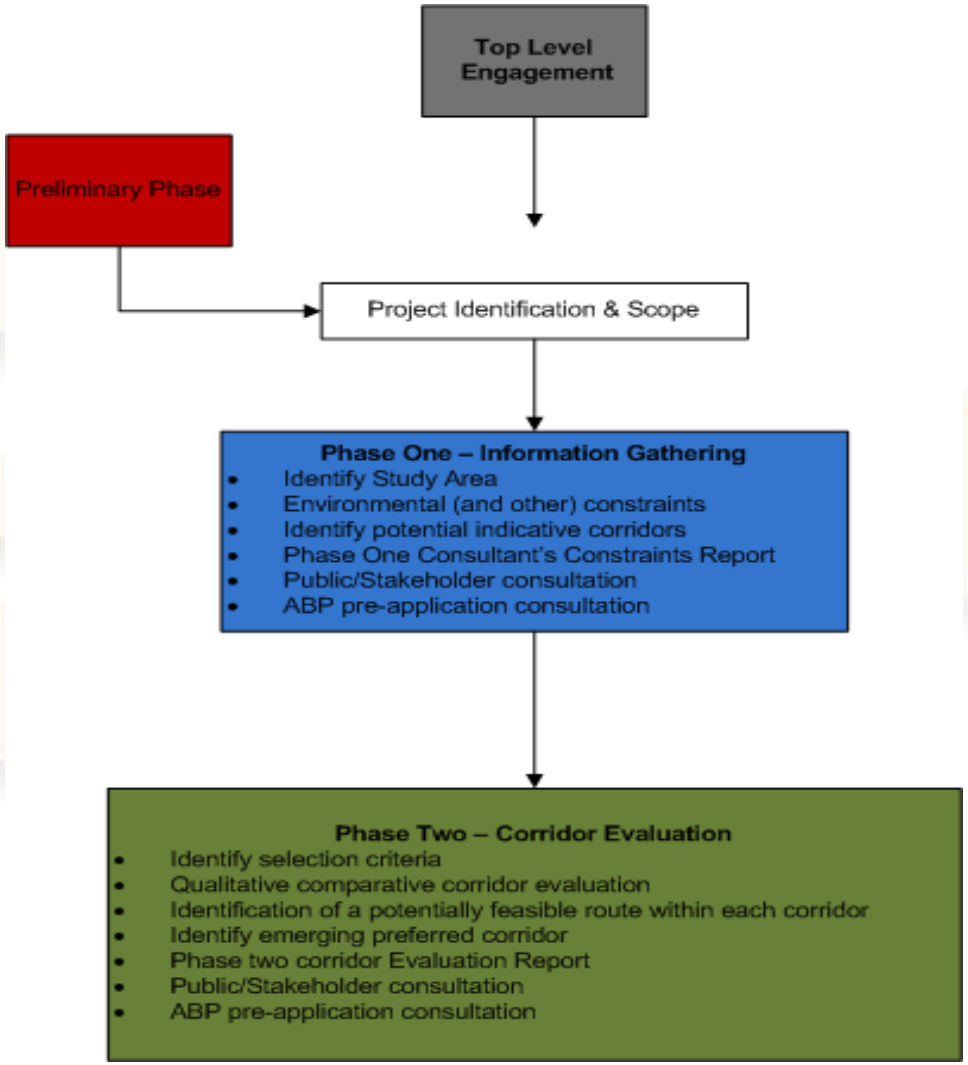
Phase Two: The Evaluation Phase contd.

Key Deliverables/Milestones

- Identification of **Selection Criteria** for the project;
- **Comparative evaluation** of corridors/sites;
- Identification of **Emerging Preferred Corridor/Site**;
- Identification of **Potentially Feasible Routes** within corridor(s);
- Publication of **"EirGrid" Corridor/Site Evaluation Report**;
- Public/Stakeholder Input #4 – Open Day #3 – *"Tell Us.."*.

Phase Two: The Evaluation Phase



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Phase Three: The Route Confirmation Phase

Phase Three occurs in parallel with Phase Four (application preparation).

Objectives

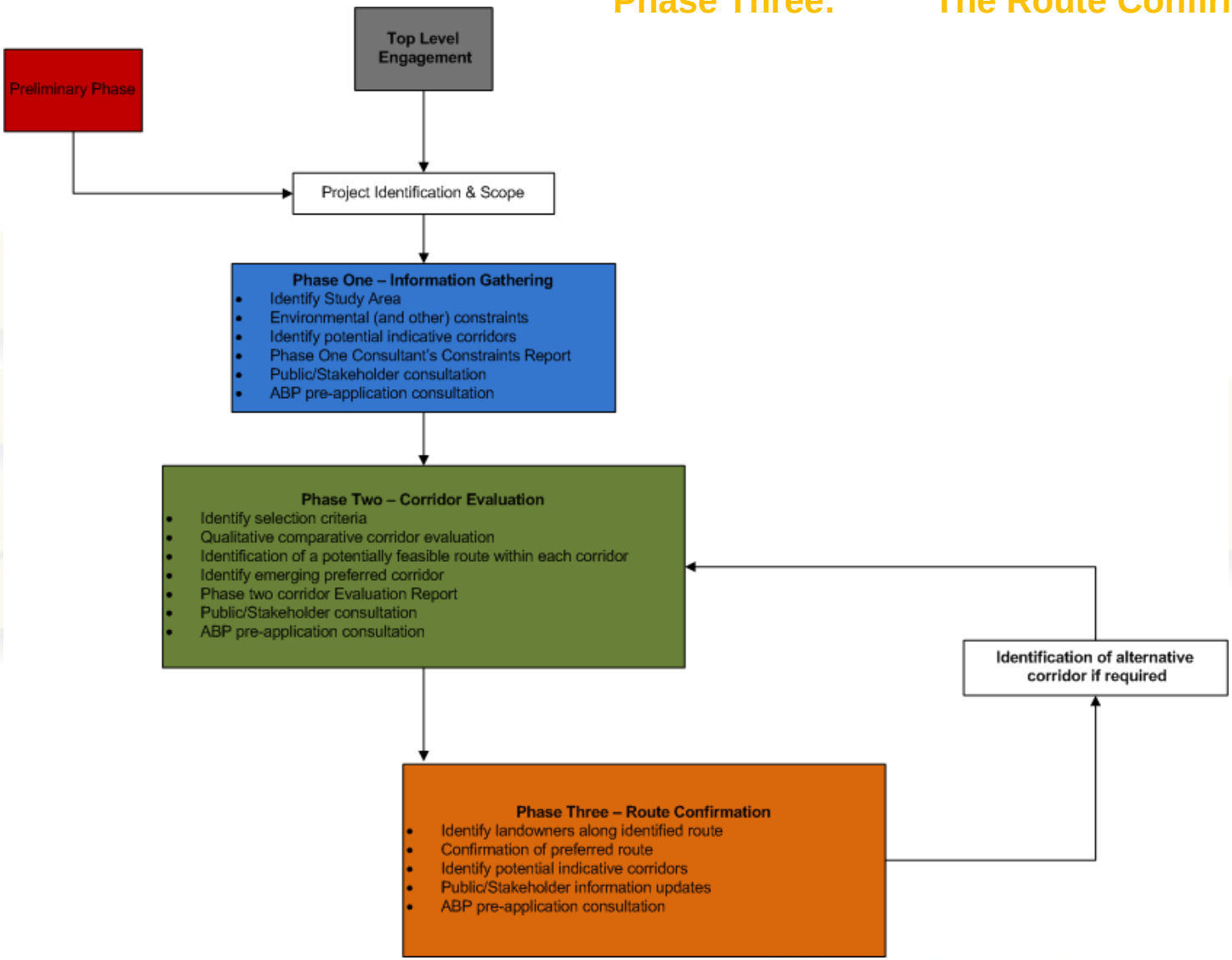
- To **confirm a preferred route/site** which will constitute the proposal;
- To **identify and engage with landowners** on the route/site;
- To continue to **present key messages** to public/stakeholders;
- Move from **information gathering to information giving**.

Phase Three: The Route Confirmation Phase contd.

Key Deliverables/Milestones

- **Identification of landowners** along route/in vicinity of site;
- **Confirmation of route/site**;
- Identification from evaluation of **Emerging Preferred Corridor/Site**;
- Public/Stakeholder Input #5 – website, brochures – *"We tell you..."*.

Phase Three: The Route Confirmation Phase



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Phase Four: The EIS and Application Preparation Phase

Objectives

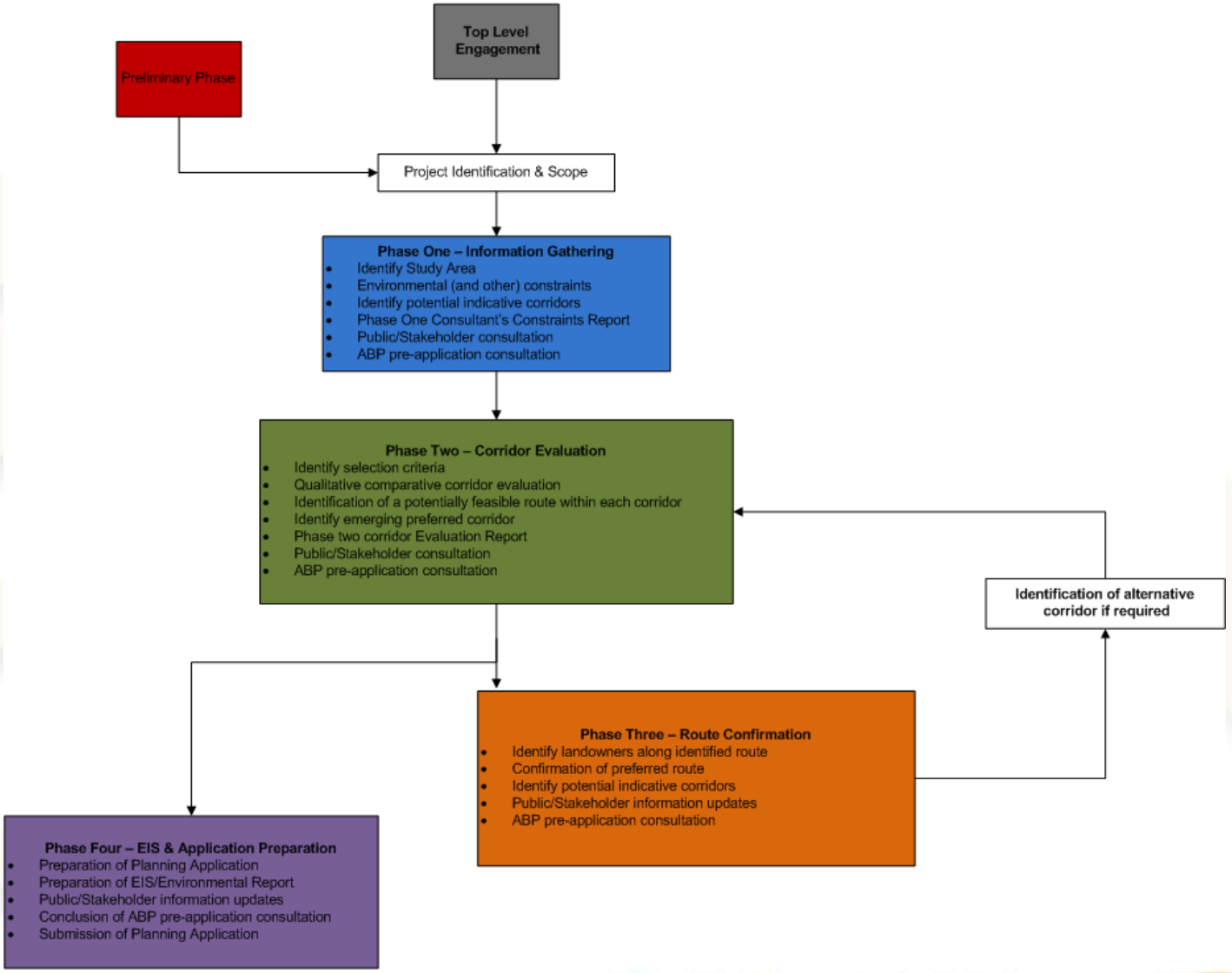
- To prepare a robust planning application for the proposal;
- To undertake adequate environmental assessment;
- To continue to present key messages to public/stakeholders;

Phase Four: The EIS and Application Preparation Phase contd.

Key Deliverables/Milestones

- **The Planning Application**;
- **The Environmental Assessment**;
- Public/Stakeholder Input #6 – website, application website, brochure
  - *"This is the proposed development..."*.
  - *"Here's how to engage in the applications process..."*.

THE ROADMAP FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF TRANSMISSION PROJECTS



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Benefits

- **Consistency of approach for all EirGrid projects**
- **Clarity for EirGrid, public, stakeholders, and ABP re process**
- **Co-ordination of project progress with adequate public input**
- **Transparent, accountable, structured & defensible process**