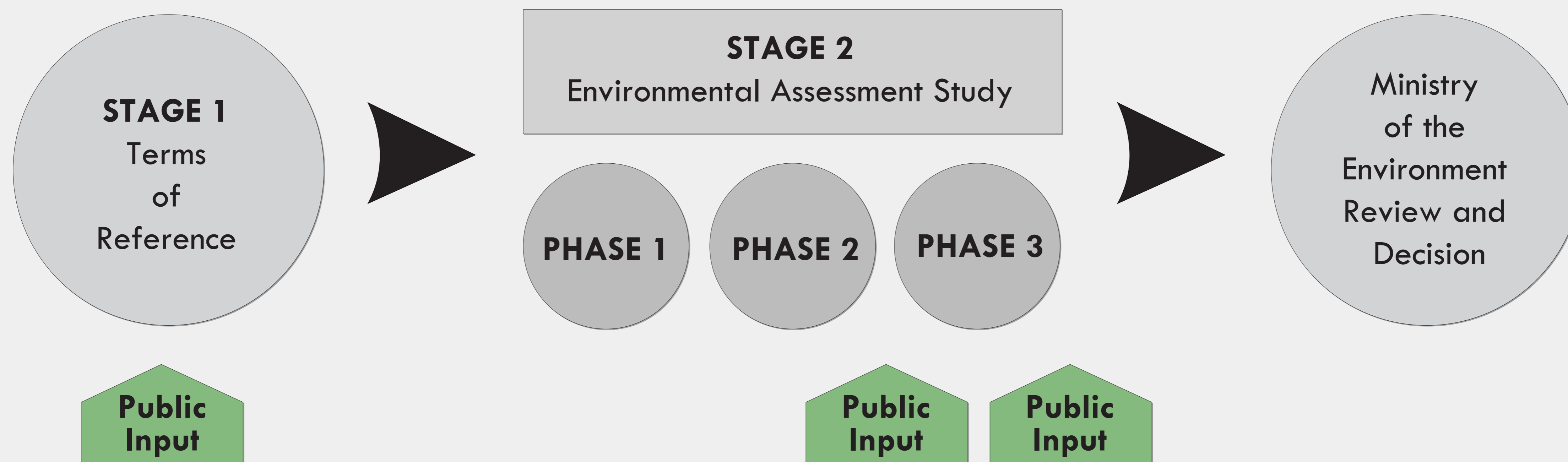


## What is an Environmental Assessment?

- An Environmental Assessment (EA) is a study which assesses the potential environmental effects and benefits of a project on the environment.
- Under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act, the first stage of an individual EA is to develop a Terms of Reference.
- The Terms of Reference (ToR) is a "road map" of how the EA, including the public consultation program, will be done.
- The Terms of Reference requires the approval of the Minister of the Environment.
- Once the ToR is approved, it will be a work plan directing how the study will proceed.



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS