



Media release

The Hon Ryan Smith MP
Minister for Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Youth Affairs

Friday 23 August 2013

Industry groups get funding support to drive environmental awareness

Minister for Environment and Climate Change Ryan Smith today announced almost \$565,000 in funding through EPA Victoria for the Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) and the Plastics and Chemical Industries Association (PACIA) to provide support and training on environmental regulation and risk.

Mr Smith said the funding would ensure the continuation of EPA's successful „support to comply“ initiatives, which have included funding to both the Ai Group and PACIA to deliver their *Assessing Compliance and Environmental Risk Training* and *Environmental Management Wizard* programs.

Mr Smith said the Victorian Coalition Government was committed to supporting initiatives that build environmental partnerships and deliver practical information and solutions to industry to prevent pollution and improve waste management.

“Addressing pollution and waste management is a key part of this Coalition Government’s *Environmental Partnerships Action Plan*, and I can’t think of a better way to achieve this than by supporting industry to take ownership of environmental best practice,” Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said in the two years Ai Group has been doing this work, supported by EPA, they have been able to assist almost 150 companies.

“Supporting industry members to understand and comply with environmental laws and regulations not only makes sense, but it also means that there will be less need for the EPA to take enforcement action,” Mr Smith said.

Mr Smith said the funding would also support PACIA’s *Environmental Management Wizard*, an online tool where companies can undertake a confidential environmental evaluation of their operations to enhance their knowledge.

For more information about the programs visit:

<http://www.aigroup.com.au/portal/site/aig/environment/>

<http://www.pacia.org.au/programs/environmentalmanagementwizard>

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