

Annual Plan 2016-17

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY



Environment
Protection
Authority Victoria



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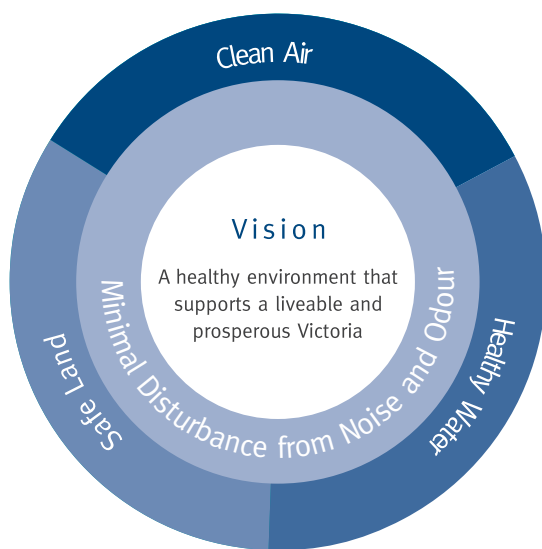
About Environment Protection Authority Victoria

Our vision

A healthy environment that supports a liveable and prosperous Victoria.

Our vision is supported by the achievement of five environmental outcomes: clean air; healthy water (including groundwater, marine and freshwater systems); safe land (and less waste); minimal disturbance from noise and from odour.

Figure 1: Our vision and environmental outcomes



Our role

We are an effective environmental regulator and an influential authority on environmental impacts.

Our role in government

EPA is a statutory authority created by the *Environment Protection Act 1970* and an administrative office of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning under the *Public Administration Act 2004*. The responsible Minister is the Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio MP.

Our guiding principles

The following principles guide our work and outline what Victorians can expect from EPA: accountable, transparent, effective, inclusive, authoritative, consistent, targeted, proportionate.

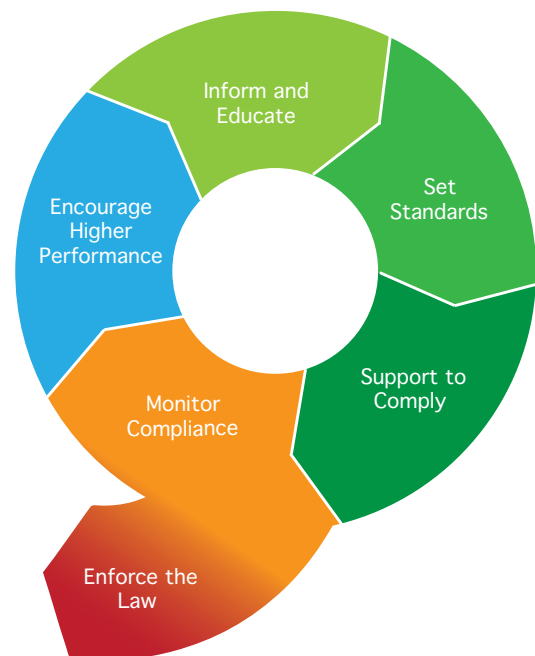
Our regional presence

EPA serves Victorians from its offices in **Carlton, Dandenong, Traralgon, Wangaratta, Bendigo, Geelong** and the **Centre for Applied Sciences in Macleod**.

Risk-based

In line with modern regulatory practice, Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) takes a risk-based approach to its compliance and enforcement activities.

Figure 2: Our regulatory approach



Decisions

Compliance and enforcement decisions are made in line with the *Compliance and Enforcement Policy* (publication 1388) and consider the likelihood of non-compliance and the level of risk or harm to health and the environment.

Foreword

A message from the Chief Executive Officer

When Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) was established in 1971 our state had a population of 3.5 million people with a strong base of industry in agriculture, mining and manufacturing. As Victoria edges towards a population of six million and new industries emerge, we face a different set of challenges and opportunities.

Population growth will create unique challenges in dealing with the development of former industrial sites for housing, increased waste and encroachment on industry. We will also deal with pollution from a broader range of sources as our economy transitions away from its traditional base, and continue to face impacts from climate change.

Today's community is increasingly aware of these environmental issues and wants to be part of the solution. Many are willing to help us prevent, manage and monitor issues in their regions and shape their environment. This provides EPA with valuable opportunities to influence environmental and public health outcomes through prevention, early detection and monitoring.

EPA's staff should take great pride in delivering the commitments in our 2011-16 *5 Year Plan*. Our culture provides us with a strong foundation to meet the challenges of the future and continue on our journey to modernise EPA.

The Ministerial Advisory Committee's Independent Inquiry into the EPA has made 48 recommendations. We look forward to receiving and implementing the Victorian Government's response and will adapt this plan as required.

In the meantime, we will continue to deliver on our four organisational goals:

1. Protect the environment for future generations
2. Improve the effectiveness of EPA's regulatory activities
3. Improve confidence in EPA as the environmental regulator
4. Improve the experience people have of EPA

Our task is to deliver real public value today while preparing for tomorrow's challenges. We accept this responsibility wholeheartedly and look forward to building an EPA for the future.



Nial Finegan
Chief Executive Officer
Environment Protection Authority Victoria
1 July 2016

Organisational goal one:

Protect the environment for future generations

We will use our knowledge and intelligence to advise and inform strategies and standards and promote and enforce compliance to safeguard the environment and the community from current and future impacts.

Our plan to achieve this goal

Understand Victoria's environment	<p>Continue to build an understanding of the quality of our environment and emerging trends to inform Victorians and support the development of strategies and standards.</p> <p>Improve our understanding of the impacts from chemicals and waste on the environment and people to better inform prevention and management strategies.</p>
Play our role in improving regulatory instruments	<p>Review and update policies and regulations on waste, air, water, contaminated environments, noise and scheduled premises so they remain accessible and relevant.</p> <p>Ensure environment protection standards reflect contemporary evidence and analysis.</p> <p>Continue modernisation of EPA licences through review of standard licence conditions and rollout of periodic reviews.</p>
Focus on high-risk activities	<p>Improve licence compliance and environmental performance of priority businesses and industries.</p> <p>Increase compliance by operators of underground petroleum storage systems to reduce risks to land and groundwater.</p> <p>Continue implementation of post-closure landfill program to ensure risks are appropriately managed.</p> <p>Maintain focus on illegal dumping to reduce the environmental impacts from waste.</p> <p>Begin implementation of reforms to financial assurance as a tool to protect Victorians from costly cleanup when industrial sites are vacated.</p>

Organisational goal two:

Improve the effectiveness of EPA's regulatory activities

Our regulatory effort will be focused on protecting the environment of Victoria and reducing environmental risks to the community. We will focus our effort where we are most likely to provide the biggest benefit to Victorians and the environment.

Our plan to achieve this goal

Promote compliance and accountability	<p>Hold polluters to account by increasing the number of enforcement activities brought by the Authority.</p> <p>Build our capability to promote and support compliance by developing education and strategic engagement programs.</p>
Enable participation in setting EPA priorities	<p>Develop a new organisational strategy that reflects the priorities of the community, government and industry.</p> <p>Continue to work with community and industry in the development of policies, regulations and guidelines so they are informed by the aspirations of Victorians.</p>
Leverage technology and data	<p>Improve accessibility to and use of intelligence tools to more effectively inform regulatory decisions and execute EPA's risk-based approach to regulating.</p> <p>Leverage new technology to improve detection, monitoring and assessment of compliance and environmental and public health risk.</p> <p>Increase EPA's ability to respond to incidents impacting air quality across the state by introducing more mobile air quality monitoring services</p>

Organisational goal three:

Improve confidence in EPA as the environmental regulator

The community, businesses and industry will have confidence in EPA as a transparent and independent regulator. We will be responsive to the community's needs and provide information that will help Victorians understand their environment and the standards that protect the environment.

Our plan to achieve this goal

Apply regulatory tools robustly	<p>Continue to implement priority reform agendas to improve delivery of emergency management, works approvals, permitting, environmental audits and our litter program.</p> <p>Develop additional tools to better guide planning authorities in considering and managing environmental risks and impacts.</p> <p>Maintain our regulatory tools, including: remedial notices, environmental audits, annual performance statements provided by licence holders, and landfill levy statements.</p>
Promote consistency and transparency	<p>Continue to improve regulatory practice through learning, development and quality assurance programs.</p> <p>Implement strategic and targeted communication of regulatory activities to promote compliance.</p> <p>Continue to improve the timeliness of our enforcement activities.</p>
Play our part to protect the environment and the community of the Latrobe Valley	<p>Follow through on enforcement activities currently in progress and continue to learn from the Government's inquiry into the Hazelwood mine fire.</p> <p>Continue to engage with the local community on local air quality and future air quality monitoring.</p> <p>Roll out improved emergency response practices in collaboration with the emergency management sector.</p>
Collaborate with and inform planning and decision making with co-regulators	<p>Proactively influence significant land-use planning decisions through effective and targeted engagement.</p> <p>Improve delivery of shared objectives by identifying opportunities to partner with other regulators.</p>

Organisational goal four:

Improve the experience people have of EPA

We will improve the experience of people who interact with EPA by focusing on outcomes and timeliness.

Our plan to achieve this goal

<p>Improve our digital presence</p>	<p>Enhance our digital presence and service to improve how people interact with EPA.</p> <p>Increase accessibility and transparency of air monitoring data to better inform the Victorian community.</p>
<p>Develop a culture and systems that support delivery of public value</p>	<p>Enhance quality of information and the experience for pollution reporters.</p> <p>Continue to implement EPA's Diversity and Inclusion Plan.</p> <p>Enhance business system capability and training to improve data quality.</p> <p>Continue to improve capability of EPA staff to engage with business and community to improve their experience of EPA.</p>

Continuing our commitment to reducing our environmental impact

EPA will continue to reduce our own environmental impact and, as part of the Victorian Government's TAKE2 Climate Change Pledge, contribute to whole-of-government emission reductions.

Office-based environmental goals	Target
Percentage of reduction in greenhouse gas emissions since 2009-10	15%
Megajoules (MJ) of energy used per m ²	550
Percentage of increase in vehicle fleet fuel efficiency	10%
Percentage of increase in use of public transport for work purposes by 5%	10%
Kilograms of waste generated per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee	60kg
Reams of paper used per FTE employee	5
Litres of water used per m ²	280

Our performance indicators

Output targets aligned to our 2016-17 organisational goals

The table below shows how EPA's output targets for compliance and enforcement activity, and our government accountability, align to our organisational goals for 2016-17.

Performance indicator	2016-17 target	Organisational goal			
		1	2	3	4
Total inspections undertaken	1750	X		X	
Number of compliance visits to priority licensed and major industry premises	260	X	X	X	
Number of strategic visits for complex problems and operational strategies	180	X			
Percentage of incidents assessed as requiring immediate EPA attendance inspected	95%			X	
Percentage of incidents assessed as requiring planned EPA attendance inspected	90%			X	
Response to requests for incident air monitoring deployment for emergency incidents	100%			X	X
Percentage of pollution reporters requesting follow-up by EPA receiving contact within three working days ^{BP3}	80%				X
EPA notices issued for illegal dumping of waste ^{BP3}	70	X			
Percentage of notices complied with by due date or escalation in line with the Compliance and Enforcement Policy ^{BP3}	90%			X	
Percentage of EPA prosecutions that are successful, and conditions in enforceable undertakings that are focused on improving environmental performance ^{BP3}	90%		X	X	
Percentage of cleanup to the extent practicable (CUTEP) decisions exempt from approval by EPA ^{SOE}	35%		X		
Percentage of cleanup to the extent practicable (CUTEP) decisions made in under 56 days ^{SOE}	80%				X
Environmental condition research reports, improvement tools, guidelines, policies, systems and plans completed and issued ^{BP3}	54	X		X	
Percentage of land audits submitted by EPA-appointed auditors that are reviewed to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and guidelines ^{BP3}	90%		X	X	
Percentage of works approvals and licence applications completed within required statutory timelines ^{BP3}	96%				X

^{BP3} Budget Paper 3 target

^{SOE} Minister's 2016-17 Statement of Expectation target

Minister's 2016-17 Statement of Expectations

The table below summarises the targets established under the 2016-17 Statement of Expectations for Environment Protection Authority Victoria.

Performance indicators in the Statement of Expectations

Measure	Target	Good regulatory practice element
Periodic reviews of the currency and effectiveness of EPA licence conditions	Review effectiveness of EPA licences, including a review of the standard conditions that apply to all licences	Risk-based strategies
Time taken by EPA for a cleanup to extent possible (CUTEP) decision following submission from an environmental auditor	80% within 56 days	Timeliness
Percentage of CUTEP decisions exempt from approval by EPA (that is, decision made by the auditor)	35%	Risk-based strategies
Explore opportunities for industry burden reduction as part of the review of the Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises and Exemptions) Regulations 2007	Identify opportunities to the satisfaction of the Office of the Commissioner for Better Regulation	Risk-based strategies





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