

One year into our Strategic Plan 2022–2027

The first year of delivering our Strategic Plan 2022–2027 was focused on establishing the foundations needed to achieve our strategic outcomes by 2027.

As expected in this first year, for many of our performance measures we haven't seen much progress towards our targets. In some cases our performance has reduced from the 2022 baseline as we improved our understanding of the measures.

With the foundations now established, we expect to see improved progress towards our targets in future years.

Action

34% increase in inspections and audits

5,412 inspections

217 environmental audits

995 air and water quality notices

516 preventative inspections of high-risk sites

38% increase in total pollution reports

5% increase in immediate and priority pollution reports responded to

47 fires and other emergencies attended by us

100% of priority waste incidents responded to within 24 hours

increase in permissions and development advice

3,316 licences, permits and registrations issued

248 designations and determinations issued

756 strategic land use advices and development proposals

34% increase in warnings, notifications and directions

2,965 warnings

13 directions

6,080 remedial notices

9,027 infringement notices

> 90% prosecution success rate

93 civil and criminal matters completed

74% increased activity across all communication channels

56,138 emails actioned

46,088 phone calls received

1,969 social posts

15 industry guidance pieces published

1,678 science advice requests completed

18 peer-reviewed scientific articles published globally

2,013 stakeholder engagement sessions

87% staff completed engagement training

5 consultation groups established with industry sectors

7 regional forums established with local communities

Strategic outcomes

Our environment is cleaner and communities are healthier

All Victorians reduce their environmental risks

We have influence and impact

Performance measures

Days the maximum concentration standards for nitrogen dioxide, ozone, PM10 or PM2.5 were exceeded:

16 | 15 ^{2022 baseline}

> 2027 target 0

Monitoring sites that meet long-term microbial water quality standards:

43% | 69% ^{2022 baseline}

> 2027 target 93%

High-risk contaminated land sites under active management:

10% | 15% ^{2022 baseline}

> 2027 target 95%

Premises required to take remedial action because of noise:

115 | 50 ^{2022 baseline}

> 2027 target 35

Pollution reports requiring a field response by EPA:

7% | 9% ^{2022 baseline}

> 2027 target 4.5%

Permissioned businesses that have appropriate risk controls implemented:

74% | 70% ^{2022 baseline}

> 2027 target 95%

Community awareness of the general environmental duty (GED):

19% | 16% ^{2022 baseline}

> 2027 target 80%

Community awareness of EPA:

55% | 56% ^{2022 baseline}

> 2027 target 95%

Community trust in EPA:

50% | 51% ^{2022 baseline}

> 2027 target 90%

Citations of EPA science:

1,336 | 850 ^{2022 baseline}

> 2027 target 1,275

Commentary

Exceedances were mostly PM2.5 from large industrial sites. Many of these sites house legacy industries. The transition to cleaner infrastructure will take several years.

Water quality was impacted by the La Nina weather patterns and significant flooding events in 2022–23.

In 2022–23, the focus was on developing systems and processes for the management of contaminated land. These will now be used to increase the number of high-risk sites under management. It's expected that progress will track to target.

In 2022–23, the focus was on increasing awareness of noise pollution. This resulted in an increase in reports and more sites needing to take remedial action. As compliance improves, it is expected that results will track to target.

More pollution reports were received in 2022–23, mostly related to noise and odour. However, the proportion of serious incidents that required a field response decreased. This was due to EPA's preventative focus on high risk industries and activities.

Regulatory inspections have included assessments of risk management systems at sites and premises. Areas for improvement have been identified and it's expected that risk controls will continue to get better over time.

In 2022–23, the focus of awareness campaigns was on improving business and industry knowledge about environment protection requirements. Going forward, more campaigns will engage the broader community. This will build awareness of the GED and progress is expected to track to target.

In 2022–23, the focus of awareness campaigns was on improving business and industry knowledge about environment protection requirements. Going forward, more campaigns will engage the broader community. This will build awareness of EPA and progress is expected to track to target.

In 2022–23, the focus of awareness campaigns was on improving business and industry knowledge about environment protection requirements. Going forward, more campaigns will engage the broader community. This will build awareness of EPA's work and support the strengthening of trust.

EPA scientists published impactful articles in world-class journals and presented at conferences. This meant a significant increase in citations of EPA science and this trend is expected to continue.