

Strategic plan 2022 to 2027

Highlights from 2023–24

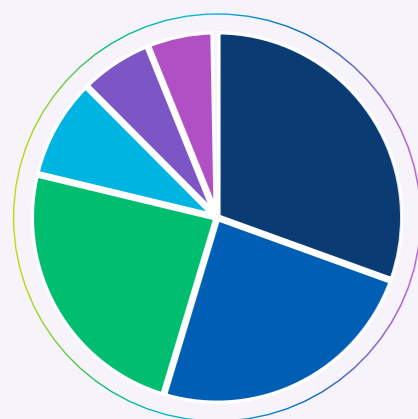


Progress snapshot

Helping us to achieve our 3 strategic outcomes by 2027, we set mid-term targets for 2024. This snapshot shows how we are tracking.

Report

25,141 pollution reports



Key

- Noise
- Waste
- Odour
- Water
- Smoke
- Dust
- Banned products

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Monitor

5,429 inspections

558 air, water, odour and noise monitoring activities

Enforce

15,949 regulatory notices

290 official warnings

7 directions and 3 orders

139 criminal and civil matters started

120 matters completed with a 90% success rate

Respond

240 emergencies attended or advised on

100% emergency reports responded to **less than 2 hours**

100% priority waste incidents responded to **less than 15 hours**

Engage

1,533 engagement activities, like community forums or consultations

21 sector consultation group meetings

7 community consultation groups formed

What we want to achieve by 2027

Increased understanding among communities and businesses of their environmental obligations

2023-24 actions

4,237 compliance advice given

75% industry say they have an excellent understanding of their obligations

Increased adoption of environmental and human health risk controls

2023-24 actions

5,429 compliance inspections

17 industry guidance

Industrial waste disposed at a lawful place

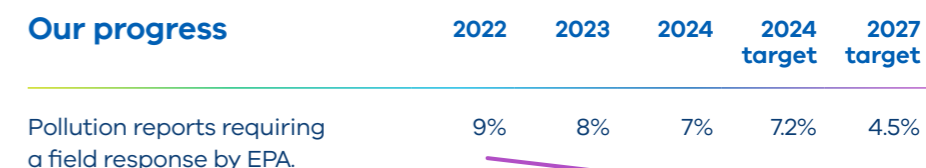
2023-24 actions

10 emergency authorisations for discharge or disposal issued

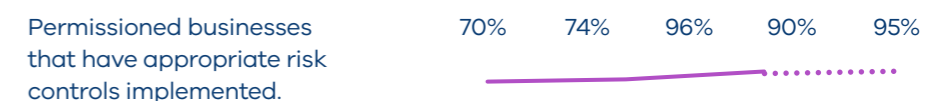


All Victorians reduce their environmental risks

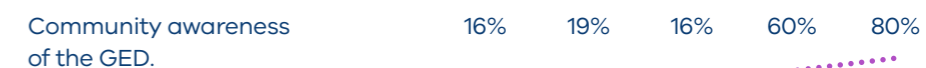
Our progress



While pollution reporting numbers remain steady there has been a reduction in reports that indicate human or environmental impact. This may be explained by better management of long-term isolated pollution events that had caused high volumes of reports where health or the environment has been impacted.



We continued to inspect permission holders with a higher risk of harm to environment or human health from pollution and waste from their operations. Through these inspections, we helped duty holders meet their legislative obligations, with 96% of those who were found to be non-compliant moving into compliance by the end of the year.



Since the introduction of the GED in July 2021, we have focused on industries that present the greatest risk of harm. The first community-focused campaign began in May 2024 and is already seeing high rates of engagement on digital channels. This initiative will continue through 2024–25 with support from partner agencies and co-regulators.

— Actual results Targets

epa.vic.gov.au

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Interpreter Services

For languages other than English, please call 131 450



What we want to achieve by 2027



Our environment is cleaner and communities are healthier

Improved air and water quality

2023-24 actions

144 air and water quality notices

Reduced land contamination and noise pollution

2023-24 actions

48% fewer community noise reports

133 environmental audits

Businesses have appropriate permissions in place

2023-24 actions

20% more permits and licences issued

Our progress

	2022	2023	2024	2024 target	2027 target
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Number of days the maximum concentration standards for nitrogen dioxide, ozone, PM10 or PM2.5 were exceeded. **15** 2022, **16** 2023, **9** 2024, **0** 2024 target, **0** 2027 target

Exceedances were mainly of PM10 and PM2.5 (small particulate matter) due to a mixture of windblown dust from large legacy industrial sites and fires in the landscape.

Monitoring sites that meet long-term microbial water quality standards. **69%** 2022, **43%** 2023, **39%** 2024, **83%** 2024 target, **93%** 2027 target

This figure is calculated using water quality results from a rolling 5-year dataset. High rainfall and flood-impacted waters in recent summers resulted in fewer sites meeting long-term microbial water quality standards. If normal weather patterns resume, it's expected results will track towards target.

High-risk contaminated land sites under active management. **15%** 2022, **10%** 2023, **80%** 2024, **50%** 2024 target, **95%** 2027 target

We focused our effort and enhanced our capability to address the highest risk sites and duty holders with many contaminated sites, resulting in us exceeding our target.

Number of premises required to take remedial action because of noise. **50** 2022, **115** 2023, **91** 2024, **42** 2024 target, **35** 2027 target

We had preventative programs of work addressing noise issues, and noise pollution reports are now the highest proportion of pollution reports received. These factors led to more sites needing remedial actions compared to target, but a 21% reduction of sites compared to last year.

— Actual results Targets

What we want to achieve by 2027



We have impact and influence

Reduction in repeat polluters

2023-24 actions

9% drop in repeat noise reports

Increased proactive detection of environmental crime

2023-24 actions

45% more activities to disrupt waste crime

72 investigations started

Effective internal review and assurance processes that drive continuous improvement

2023-24 actions

More than 100 staff trained, and introduced new checks to improve consistency and quality of decisions

Our progress

	2022	2023	2024	2024 target	2027 target
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Community awareness of EPA. **56%** 2022, **55%** 2023, **52%** 2024, **75%** 2024 target, **95%** 2027 target

Community trust in EPA. **51%** 2022, **50%** 2023, **51%** 2024, **70%** 2024 target, **90%** 2027 target

Community awareness and trust is heavily influenced by major incidents and news coverage. EPA maintained a steady stream of compliance coverage in the media and online. The largest incident for the year was asbestos in public spaces and we provided thorough information and detailed how the community was kept safe from pollution and waste.

Citations of EPA science. **850** 2022, **1,336** 2023, **2,714** 2024, **935** 2024 target, **1,275** 2027 target

EPA scientists exceeded the citation target, demonstrating we publish impactful and relevant articles in world-class journals. This aligns with our 5-year strategic plan to address current and emerging issues through science, data and intelligence.

— Actual results Targets