

Annual Plan 2015-16

Delivering on our 5 Year Plan - Year Five



Environment
Protection
Authority Victoria



Environment Protection Authority Victoria regulatory approach

Risk-based

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

Decisions

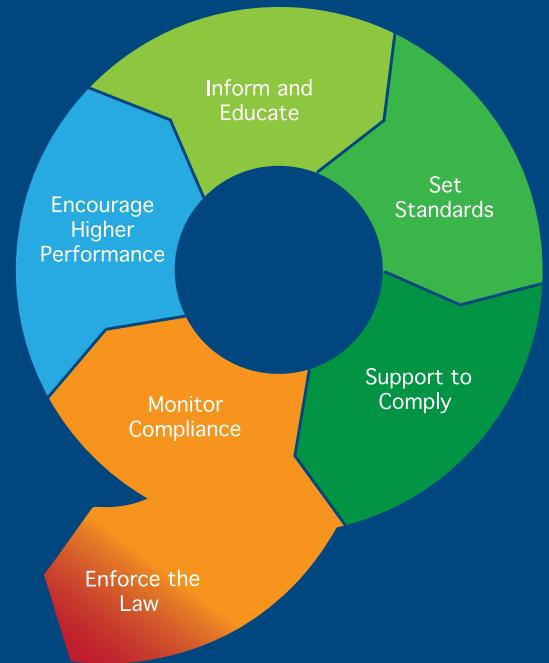
Compliance and enforcement decisions are made in line with the *Compliance and Enforcement Policy* [publication 1388.1], and consider the likelihood of non-compliance and the level of risk or harm to health and the environment.

What businesses can do to prepare for a visit from EPA

To prepare for a visit from EPA, businesses should:

- be familiar with their responsibilities
- put environmental monitoring and management systems in place
- maintain good practices
- communicate with EPA.

For specific visit information, see the compliance and enforcement section of EPA's website at www.epa.vic.gov.au.



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About Environment Protection Authority Victoria

Our vision

A healthy environment supports a liveable and prosperous Victoria.

At EPA, the achievement of the following environmental outcomes are:



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. Lisa Neville MP, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water.

Our guiding principles

The following principles guide our work and outline what Victorians can expect from the EPA:

- accountable
- transparent
- effective
- inclusive
- authoritative
- consistent
- targeted
- proportionate.

More information about EPA's guiding principles is available in our *5 Year Plan (2011-16)* [publication 1403].

Our regional presence

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

Purpose of this 2015-16 Annual Plan

This Annual Plan outlines our commitment to government, the Victorian community, industry and workers. It outlines our compliance and enforcement priorities for the 2015-16 financial year. It captures the key achievements that will enable us to deliver on the vision set out in our current *5 Year Plan*.

Adapting to a changing environment

Adapting to a changing environment

In 2015-16 we will deliver the final year of our *5 Year Plan*. During 2015-16, EPA is undergoing an inquiry by an independent Ministerial Advisory Committee. We welcome the independent inquiry as an opportunity to ensure EPA is set up to protect the environment for future generations of Victorians.

As the profile of Victorian industry continues to evolve, so do the ways in which Victorians want to be engaged with on environmental issues. We will adapt to meet the expectations Victorians have of their environmental regulator and we will provide value to Victorians. We will also ensure we are prepared for the future beyond our current *5 Year Plan*.

Our *2015-16 Annual Plan* highlights commitments under our *5 Year Plan* strategic priorities to Deal with Past Pollution, Tackle Current Environmental Issues and Shape the Environmental Future. These activities will take us another step toward improving the environment for Victorians.

To deliver our strategic priorities we aim to:

- improve the effectiveness of EPA's regulatory activities
- protect the environment for future generations
- improve confidence in EPA as the environmental regulator
- improve the experience people have of EPA.

We will draw on our constructive organisational culture and dedication to serving the Victorian public to achieve these outcomes.

The year ahead will be a challenge, but it is a challenge we welcome and have worked hard to be ready for.



Nial Finegan
Chief Executive Officer
Environment Protection Authority Victoria
1 July 2015

Outcome one: 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.

Success measure: Increase in the percentage of stakeholders who report that EPA effectively exercises its regulatory powers

2015-16 delivery highlights to achieve our strategic priorities

Deal with past pollution

Undertake targeted monitoring of contaminated environments, including:

- reducing risks posed by closed landfills by introducing contemporary controls and compliance practices
- reducing risks to human health by ensuring appropriate cleanup of complex, high-risk contaminated land.

Tackle current environmental issues

Implement strategic programs to improve performance in focus areas, including:

- improving leachate management practices at Victorian landfills
- preventing contamination of land and groundwater by identifying and stopping leaks from underground petrol tanks at currently operating service stations
- reducing metal pollution entering our waterways and impacting aquatic life by targeting support to comply and inspections to the electroplating industry
- improving water quality at Port Phillip Bay beaches by tracking sources of pollution and working with catchment managers to stop them occurring
- reducing the illegal transport of prescribed industrial waste interstate by enforcing the law and partnering with EPA's co-regulators and inter-jurisdictional counterparts
- monitoring and seeking to improve the management of construction and demolition waste.

Implement strategic initiatives in response to local issues in metropolitan and regional Victoria, including:

- reducing the impact of dust on the community near the Brooklyn Industrial Estate
- ensuring appropriate regulation of local industry in the Latrobe Valley
- tackling illegal dumping of waste
- holding to account Victorians who litter from their cars
- ensuring Victorian drivers comply with noise and smoke emission standards for vehicles.

Deliver targeted compliance and enforcement activities, including:

- improving compliance with EPA licences at priority sites, including:
 - waste treatment, disposal and recycling facilities
 - landfills
 - refineries
 - rendering plants
- ensuring appropriate environmental management systems are in place at major industrial facilities to satisfy EPA that significant environmental risks are adequately managed
- use the learnings of the earned autonomy pilot program to inform EPA's future approach to recognising and rewarding high performing EPA licensees
- ensuring appropriate ballast water management by ships visiting Victorian ports.

Improve our effectiveness in responding to pollution incidents and emergencies, including our ability to monitor air quality in an emergency.

Shape the environmental future

Inform planning decisions about environmental risks to prevent future environmental impacts, by continuing to:

- work proactively to inform strategic planning decisions
- take a consistent and risk-based approach to advising on planning applications
- build relationships with key land use planning stakeholders
- pursue reform to further embed environmental considerations in the planning system.

Activity and output targets

In 2015-16 EPA will aim to achieve the following:

Performance indicator	2015-16 target
Percentage of completed planned compliance visits to priority premises ^{ACP}	100%
Percentage of completed strategic visits to non-licensed Victorian businesses ^{ACP}	100%
Percentage of incidents assessed as requiring immediate EPA attendance inspected ^{ACP}	95%
Percentage of incidents assessed as requiring planned EPA attendance inspected ^{ACP}	90%
Total inspections undertaken ^{ACP}	2,500
Percentage of cleanup to the extent practicable (CUTEP) decisions exempt from approval by EPA ^{SOE}	25%
EPA notices issued for illegal dumping of waste ^{BP3}	70

^{ACP} Planned compliance and enforcement activity

^{SOE} Output target in the Minister's Statement of Expectation 2014-16, (see Appendix One)

^{BP3} Output target in Victorian Government Budget Paper 3, Service Delivery

Outcome two: Protect the environment for future generations

We will use our knowledge and intelligence to advise and inform strategies and standards that safeguard the environment from future impacts.

Success measure: Increase in the percentage of stakeholders who report purposeful collaboration and engagement with EPA

2015-16 delivery highlights to achieve our strategic priorities

Deal with past pollution	Oversee the decommissioning and cleanup of closed industrial facilities to enable future use.
Tackle current environmental issues	<p>Begin the implementation of a smarter air quality monitoring program that responds to the needs of the changing Victorian community.</p> <p>Undertake periodic reviews to ensure the currency and effectiveness of EPA licences, beginning with landfill licences.</p>
Shape the environmental future	<p>Provide support for policy and regulatory reform through technical and operational advice on reviewing environmental standards for water, air, noise and waste.</p> <p>Review the <i>Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises and Exemptions) Regulations 2007</i>.</p> <p>Determine the impact that waste streams in compost have on Victorian land.</p>

Activity and output targets

In 2015-16 we will aim to achieve the following:

Performance indicator	2015-16 target
Environmental condition research reports, improvement tools, guidelines, policies, systems and plans completed and issued ^{BP3}	54
Percentage of EPA prosecutions that are successful, and conditions in enforceable undertakings that are focused on improving environmental performance ^{BP3}	90%

Refer to footnotes on page 6

Outcome 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 for environment protection.

Success measure: Increase in the percentage of Victorians who report they have confidence in EPA

2015-16 delivery highlights to achieve our strategic priorities

Deal with past pollution	<p>Improve information about potential contamination risks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing information to the community about high risk sites • identifying and informing the community about closed landfills • providing guidance on the approach to contamination risks in the urban renewal of key industrial areas such as Fisherman's Bend.
Tackle current environmental issues	<p>Improve the user-friendliness of our air quality information available online.</p> <p>Ensure the integrity of statutory tools, including the landfill levy and annual performance statements, submitted by licensees.</p> <p>Ensure the community is informed about the condition of their environment and decisions that impact it by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making information about Victoria's air quality forecast publicly available • providing recreational water users with information and forecasts about water quality throughout summer • making EPA works approval summary assessment reports available online • reporting on compliance and enforcement activities.
Shape the environmental future	<p>Support the Victorian Government's inquiry into EPA.</p>

Activity and output targets

In 2015-16 we will aim to achieve the following:

Performance indicator	2015-16 target
Percentage of notices complied with by due date or escalation in line with the <i>Compliance and Enforcement Policy</i> ^{BP3}	90%
Percentage of land audits submitted by EPA-appointed auditors that are reviewed to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and guidelines ^{BP3}	90%

Refer to footnotes on page 6

Outcome 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.

Success measure: Increase in the percentage of Victorians who report satisfaction with their experience of EPA

2015-16 delivery highlights to achieve our strategic priorities

Deal with past pollution	Enable future use of remediated sites through timely clean up to the extent practicable (CUTE ^P) decisions.
Tackle current environmental issues	<p>Improve the experience of licence holders submitting Annual Performance Statements and operators seeking vehicle permits to transport prescribed industrial waste.</p> <p>Improve the timeliness and quality of compliance and enforcement actions.</p> <p>Improve the experience of EPA by focusing on customer service practices throughout EPA.</p> <p>Enable industry to find out what is required of them to comply, and how to access EPA guidance and advice that can help them to do so.</p>
Shape the environmental future	<p>Engage the community in environmental monitoring and assessment through the implementation of a citizen science program.</p> <p>Continue to improve the timeliness of EPA approvals and license applications.</p>

Activity and output targets

In 2015-16 we will aim to achieve the following:

Performance indicator	2015-16 target
Percentage of cleanup to the extent practicable (CUTE ^P) decisions made in under 56 days ^{SOE}	90%
Percentage of pollution reporters requesting follow-up by EPA receiving contact within three working days ^{BP3}	80%
Percentage of works approvals and license applications completed within required statutory timelines ^{BP3}	96%

Refer to footnotes on page 6

A culture that supports delivery and public service

EPA is committed to a constructive culture that supports delivery for all Victorians. We will continue to improve our culture by:

- implementing our diversity and inclusion plan with a particular focus on improving inclusion of people from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background in our staff
- learning from our reference groups who represent the community, businesses and the water industry
- seeking feedback and learning from Victorians through our social research program
- learning from each other and continuing our focus on building staff expertise and knowledge, and using that expertise to support duty holders to comply with the law.

Improving our environmental performance

We will minimise our own office-based environmental impact and reduce our carbon compared to five years ago.

Our environmental performance targets

Performance indicator	2015-16 target
Percentage of reduction in greenhouse gas emissions since 2009-10	15%
Megajoules (MJ) of energy used per m ²	550 MJ
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	60 kg
Reams of paper used per FTE employee	5
Litres of water used per m ²	280 L

2015-16 operating financial forecast

We will perform our role as an effective regulator and influential authority by exercising sound financial management.

Summary of 2015-16 operational forecast

Revenue	2015-16 budget (\$ million)
Municipal and industrial landfill distribution	27.7
Prescribed industrial waste levies	14.4
Investment/grant income	18.8
Specific project funding/initiative funding	8.5
Fees, fines, licence levies, other	5.5
Total revenue	74.9
Operating expenditure	
People costs (salaried and agency staff)	43.9
Contracted services	8.7
Occupancy costs	5.5
Other expenditure (includes legal expenditure, grants, etc)	10.7
Depreciation	4.4
Total operating expenditure	73.2
Net surplus	1.7
Other externally funded outputs	(1.7)
Underlying surplus (deficit)	0.0

Appendix One: Statement of Expectations for EPA 2014-16

The table below summarises the targets established under the 2014-16 Statement of Expectations that are applicable for 2015-16.

EPA approvals reform

Measure	2015-16 target
1. Pilot a new approach to providing earned autonomy to high-performing industries.	Complete a pilot of a new approach to providing earned autonomy to high-performing EPA licensees, and use learnings for potential future reward and recognition programs.
2. Periodic reviews of the currency and effectiveness of EPA licence conditions.	Undertake periodic reviews to ensure the currency and effectiveness of EPA licences, beginning with landfill licences.
3. Publication of EPA works approval summary assessment reports.	(Not applicable in 2015-16, target related to 2014-15 only.)
4. Extend the maximum duration of permits to transport prescribed waste or prescribed industrial waste from 12 months to five years.	Efficiencies will now be achieved through other improvements to user experience.

EPA audit reform

Measure	2015-16 target
5. Time taken by EPA for a cleanup to the extent possible (CUTEP) decision following submission from an environmental auditor.	90% within 56 days
6. Percentage of CUTEP decisions exempt from approval by EPA (that is, decision made by the auditor).	25%
7. Harmonisation of the auditor appointment process with NSW EPA (pilot project for national harmonisation).	(Not applicable in 2015-16, target related to 2014-15 only.)

Appendix One: Statement of Expectations for EPA 2014-16 (continued)

Quality of EPA guidance

Measure	2015-16 target
8. Quality of EPA's guidance for duty holders.	<p>Establish and report on the percentages of duty holders that, in 2015-16 compared to 2013-14, regard EPA's guidance publications as accessible, sufficient and consistent.</p> <p>a) Ensure that the guidance in EPA's remedial notices is clear and easy to understand.</p>
9. Quality of information and support for the general public, and for people seeking or reporting on activities of EPA and/or Victorians on environmental issues, and for people reporting pollution, litter and smoky vehicles to EPA.	<p>Establish and report on the percentages of the general public, customers and community stakeholders that, in 2015-16 compared to 2013-14, regard:</p> <p>a) EPA's information and support as accessible and meaningful</p> <p>b) EPA's promotion of its compliance and enforcement activities and performance are effective.</p>
10. Quality of inspection and support for organisations with delegated powers under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1970</i> .	<p>Establish and report on the level of support that organisations with delegated powers report receiving from EPA to deliver those delegated functions, in 2015-16 compared to 2013-14.</p>

FURTHER INFORMATION

This document is available online in PDF format at epa.vic.gov.au
EPA is part of the Victorian Government's environment portfolio.



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please call 131 450 and advise your preferred language.

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