

Heads of EPA Australia and New Zealand 2035 vision statement

October 2025

Who is HEPA?

We are an informal, self-authorising alliance of heads of environment protection regulators in Australia and New Zealand.

We value HEPA as a:

- highly trusted group based on honesty and transparency,
- a group with legitimacy and influence inside our organisations and the outside world, and
- a forum that provides collaborative peer-to-peer connections that drive consistency, harmonisation and sharing of resources across our network.

Our 2035 vision

Leading better environmental outcomes across Australia and New Zealand.

What success looks like in 2035:

- We are recognised, valued and trusted – by all jurisdictions
- We use network power – leveraging the ‘individual’ to be greater than the sum of our parts
- We provide clear and consistent guidance – for effective environmental protection
- We make risk-based, science-led decisions – where intelligence is shared across EPA.

Our role

To successfully deliver our 2035 vision we commit to:

Our role as HEPA

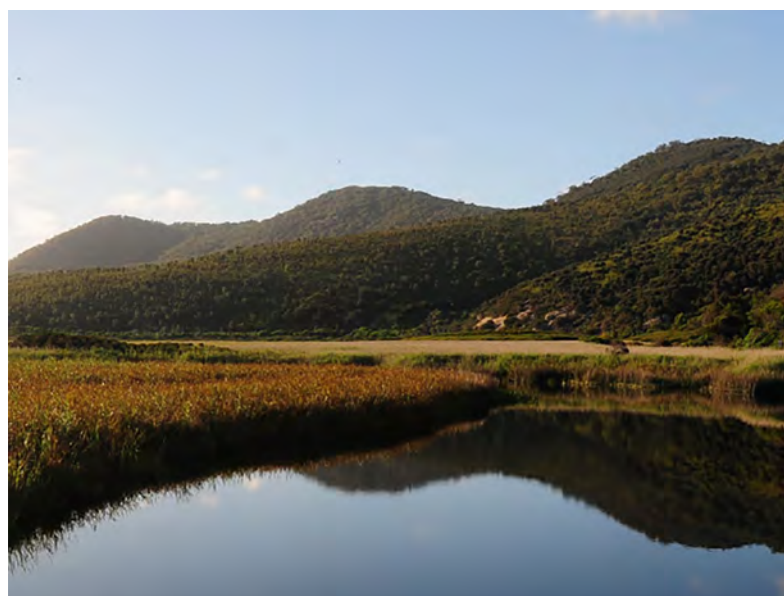
We collectively identify, evolve and provide direction on key environmental matters.

Our roles outside of HEPA meetings

We proactively share, support and leverage resources across jurisdictions.

Our role to support our Working Groups

We set a clear mandate, priorities and expectations on deliverables.



Our guiding principles

To guide what we work on together, we assess priorities against the following principles.

Significant or irreversible environmental harm or harm to human health

Potential for, or actual long-lasting or irreversible environmental damage across multiple jurisdictions.

Shared environmental protection issue better resolved with HEPA involvement

HEPA involvement would produce a better

outcome than individual jurisdictions dealing with the issue alone.

Alignment for regulatory efficiency and effectiveness

Common approvals, methodologies, and action would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of regulatory effort.

Multi-jurisdictional problem or opportunity

The issue requires collective expertise and resources in multiple jurisdictions.

Our approach

In delivering our role we consider the following five functions, as outlined in our Terms of Reference.

Understand

Current and emerging issues.

Share

Information, insights, learnings and approaches.

Align

Standards, regulatory approaches, national policy and management plans.

Grow

Regulatory capability, knowledge and expertise.

Act

Informed regulatory decisions.

Our priorities

Informed by our guiding principles, we will look to explore the following areas of harm to lead better environmental outcomes.

New and novel industries and products

Industry is moving ahead with new, potentially hazardous technologies, techniques, chemicals or activities beyond our current regulatory frameworks, approaches or methods to manage the risk.

Emerging and legacy contaminants

Chemicals in use or of concern from previous industrial activities that are known or likely to cause harm to human health or the environment.

Cross-border waste management

Cross-border management and emerging waste streams requiring alignment of regulatory standards and definitions across jurisdictions to effectively address harm.

Climate and GHG pollution

Confirming regulatory roles and ensuring consistency for industry and agriculture.

This content is for general information only. Obtain professional advice if you have any specific concern, EPA Victoria and HEPA has made reasonable effort to ensure accuracy at the time of publication. EPA and HEPA acknowledges Victoria's First Nations peoples as the Traditional Owners of the land and water on which we live and work. We pay our respect to their Elders past and present.

Interpreter Services



For languages other than English, please call 03 9209 0147

