

EPA Compliance Plan 2018-2020

As the State's primary environmental regulator, the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is a leader, partner and protector for our community and the environment. We are responsible for regulating air emissions, noise, waste, water, forestry, contaminated sites, dangerous goods, pesticides and hazardous materials. We hold people and organisations to account, change poor behaviours and encourage good behaviour through licensing, monitoring, regulation and enforcement. Our risk-based licensing system means we know which industries carry a higher risk and we make sure our regulatory response matches this. We partner with stakeholders, responding to community concerns and community expectations for environment protection. The integrity of our regulatory

frameworks and the dedicated work of our operational teams are key elements of our core business and are vital to achieving good environmental outcomes.

This plan sets out the short to medium-term compliance priorities for the EPA. The Compliance Plan provides transparency for industry and the broader community on where the EPA will focus its efforts to protect the community and the environment. The key compliance priorities have been determined using a range of data and information, including community complaints, detected non-compliances and monitoring information. The priorities recognise issues that are important to the community and provide guidance to our regulated community on the EPA's expectations.

The EPA Regulatory framework includes:

- 3,000 environment protection licences
- 18,000 radiation management and user licences
- 4,460 pest control licences
- 7,600 dangerous goods licences (drivers)
- 1,130 tanker approvals
- 117 orders and approvals regulating significantly contaminated land.

Improving air and water quality Reducing unacceptable noise and odour

To manage pollution and amenity issues, the EPA will:

- Undertake compliance audits of high-risk premises and inspect 100% of high-risk licenses at least once every six months
- Carry out random inspections for dust controls and noise monitoring to verify coal mines in the Hunter Valley are compliant
- Focus on noise from large-scale industrial, transport and construction activities
- Review pollution limits on licences for small sewage treatment plants
- Implement a framework for odour management and target odours generated by poultry farming
- Undertake targeted compliance programs on motor vehicles
- Audit pollution incident response management plan and environmental management system (or equivalent) requirements at licensed premises
- Keep a watch on non-licensed activities regulated by the EPA.

Target

- There is at least 99% compliance with environment protection licence conditions and an annual reduction in reports of non-compliance by licensees

Tackling illegal dumping and deterring waste crime

To deter and prosecute waste crime, and reduce the incidence of illegal dumping, the EPA will:

- Target serious, organised and high-profile crime with investigations, prosecutions and other interventions through our Waste Crime Taskforce
- Identify and disrupt criminal business models
- Deter non-compliance with strategic investigations and prosecutions
- Use intelligence to inform targeted waste compliance and enforcement programs
- Combat illegal dumping with our partners in state and local government, regional illegal dumping squads, industry and the community through grant funding, training, data collection and joint compliance campaigns.

Targets

- By 2020, illegal dumping is reduced by 30%
- There is a 90% prosecution success rate (excluding litter and test cases)

Decreasing risks from contaminated land

To protect people and the environment from contaminated land, the EPA will:

- Lead whole-of-government compliance programs under the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities
- Build capacity at planning authorities, including local councils, to manage contaminated land not regulated by the EPA
- Ensure significantly contaminated land is managed safely, clean-up actions are timely and land is suitable for use.

Target

- 95% of new contaminated sites are assessed and prioritised within four months of notification (where sufficient information is available)

Reducing risks from hazardous substances

To identify and manage the use, storage and transportation of hazardous substances, the EPA will:

- Ensure users of industrial chemicals and pesticides are compliant and act responsibly
- Inspect mines in shut-down or 'care and maintenance' to ensure registered radioactive sources are compliant
- Inspect facilities storing dangerous goods in tanks and target unsafe transporters.

Target

- By 2021, proper use of spray equipment by agricultural pesticide users has increased by 20%

Maintaining key forest values

To improve compliance with forestry regulations, the EPA will:

- Undertake a strategic compliance, enforcement and engagement program to improve forestry industry compliance
- Ensure the rules of the new Coastal Integrated Forestry Operations Approval are clearly understood and implemented
- Promote landholder and timber contractor compliance with the private native forestry code of practice.

Target

- 95% of high-risk native forestry operations are assessed for compliance against the native forestry regulations and guidelines prior to completion of operations

Ensuring all gas activities are compliant

To lead compliance and enforcement under the NSW Gas Plan, the EPA will:

- Focus on compliance and enforcement of all approval and environmental licence conditions.

Target

- Each year, 100% of gas sites with active wells are inspected
- By 2020, 100% of gas sites under the NSW gas plan are confirmed to be compliant with conditions

Collaborating and partnering

The EPA will work with partners and communities to:

- Support local government to manage contaminated land legacies, pollution incidents and problem waste
- Help stakeholders do the right thing for the environment and community
- Provide reliable and timely information to all EPA stakeholders through a wide range of channels
- Make data associated with compliance monitoring accessible through the SEED data portal.

Targets

- Stakeholder consultation on proposed regulatory and legislative changes is undertaken 100% of the time
- Stakeholder engagement on major incidents posing a risk to human health is undertaken 100% of the time

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