

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY
South Australia

COMPLIANCE PLAN
2016–17

DRAFT

(24/10/2016)



For general information, please contact:

Environment Protection Authority

GPO Box 2607, Adelaide

South Australia 5001

Telephone: (08) 8204 2000

Free call (country): 1800 623 445

Email: epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au

Website: www.epa.sa.gov.au

Follow us:  @SA_EPA

Images: EPA

From the Chief Executive



The Compliance Plan 2016–17 provides a summary of our targeted interventions and core regulatory work to ensure a better environment that safeguards wellbeing and which promotes and contributes to the broader prosperity of all South Australians.

In 2015–16, the EPA monitored compliance with legislation and regulations, and where necessary acted to enforce them. Key compliance activities in 2015-16 included:

- conducted approximately 700 inspections and audits to ensure compliance
- responded to more than 15,000 calls through our pollution reporting and enquiries line. In 2015–16, 95% of calls received regarding non-licensed sites were responded to within three working days
- responded to 433 incidents through our 24-hour on-call Emergency Response Team
- responded to 175 reports through our Illegal Dumping Unit (IDU), related to waste disposal, with 15 matters currently under investigation
- issued 26 Environment Protection Orders in relation to illegally deposited waste which returned in excess of 6,000 tonnes of waste into the legitimate waste management industry
- received in excess of 1,000 calls on our asbestos hotline, six matters were progressed to formal investigation with two Environment Protection Orders issued.
- continued to work with SafeWork SA and local councils around managing asbestos, targeting illegal dumping hotspots in regional and metropolitan areas
- finalised 7 prosecutions and 7 civil penalties
- conducted 68 investigations, including 29 new incidents and 39 matters carried over from previous years
- served fines through civil penalties, court-imposed fines and expiations totalling approximately \$190,000.

We have continued to focus our compliance activity on actions to address non-compliance, which is not only to the benefit of protecting our valued environment and safeguarding the wellbeing of our communities, but also ensuring a more level playing field and greater investment certainty for legal operators in South Australia. We also have introduced initiatives that acknowledge business and industry groups who support good environmentally sustainable practices.

We will continue to improve our response and interventions in collaboration with the community, industry and other regulatory agencies. We also continue to build our compliance capability and ensure that our authorised officers are well trained, prepared and professional.

Tony Circelli
Chief Executive

A better environment for the wellbeing and prosperity of all South Australians



Our strategic objectives

1 Support wellbeing and prosperity

creating a place where current and future generations can thrive

2 Keep people informed and engaged

providing opportunities for early and meaningful engagement

3 Be an effective and trusted regulator

building trust and confidence, and maximising the potential of our people

Our environmental goals

Good quality land

land is protected from the adverse impacts of pollution and waste

Good quality water

the quality of surface, ground, coastal and marine waters is protected from pollution

Good quality air

air quality is protected from atmospheric pollutants

Safe use of radiation

the environment and the community are protected from the risks associated with radiation

Protection from unacceptable noise

the community is protected from exposure to unacceptable noise levels

Sustainable use of resources

resources are managed sustainably to safeguard the environment for current and future generations.

Our intervention strategies

For each issue, we have a range of strategies to achieve desired outcomes. These vary from targeted enforcement of legislation to improving administrative systems to make it easier for the regulated community to be compliant.



Our approach to compliance

If during our interventions or core business activities we find a non-compliance, our first priority is to stop, sanction and treat the non-compliance. Our response is risk based, proportionate to the actual or potential impact on the environment, and considers the attitude and compliance history of the alleged offender. An EPA Executive subcommittee ensures the response will be fair and equitable.



Case study: the EPA prosecuted an individual for the illegal disposal of waste on a private property, who received a four-month prison sentence (suspended), and was ordered to pay landowners compensation for a clean-up costing \$44,000.

Case study: the EPA presented the Award for Excellence in Environmental Practice to South Australian company FACTOR UTB. for an innovative sewage treatment plant developed for TasWater, at the 2016 Water Industry Alliance awards.

Our targeted interventions for 2016–17

Our targeted interventions provide a focus for our compliance activity in 2016–17. These priorities have been identified through our intervention framework.

We will:

Set standards

- 1 review and reissue licences to ensure conformance with the recently revised environment protection policies for air and water quality
- 2 complete the review of the *Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of the SA Oyster Farming Industry* and develop a checklist to complement the environmental surveys undertaken with industry
- 3 ensure environmental impacts are well-managed where industry and mining site closures are occurring
- 4 conduct a risk assessment of stormwater discharge to aquifer for authorised sites in Mount Gambier

Inform

- 5 engage with industry to communicate obligations related to the transport of radioactive sources, in compliance with the *Radiation Protection and Control (Transport of Radioactive Substances) Regulations 2003*
- 6 ensure that the people responsible for site contamination engage with the affected community

Enable

- 7 work with the Department of State Development to identify quarries/mines released from regulatory control which are being used as a waste depot or for illegal dumping, and to return the waste to the legitimate waste stream
- 8 pilot a non-compliance economic assessment tool to calculate and recover illegally obtained economic benefit from serious and wilful non-compliance

Monitor compliance

- 9 Implement a community involvement approach in line with new site contamination guideline
- 10 conduct audits to assess environmental impacts from food and agricultural business growth
- 11 conduct targeted site visits of National Pollutant Inventory reporting operators and prepare audit reports to assist industry with compliance and reporting obligations under the *National Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Measure 1998*

Enforce

- 12 work with other interstate EPAs to identify, address and monitor the illegal in-bound transport of waste for disposal, and of containers for recycling purposes
- 13 conduct covert surveillance to identify and address aspects of non-compliance including breach of licence, asbestos transportation and disposal, container deposit legislation recycling and illegal dumping.



Our core regulatory work for 2016–17

We undertake a range of core regulatory work which includes inspections, audits, incident response, environmental monitoring, and response to community complaints and public enquiries. We regularly measure our performance and analyse information to improve the effectiveness of our regulatory work.

Activity	Objective	2016–17 target
Inspections of authorised activities (licensed sites) under the <i>Environment Protection Act 1993</i>	To assess compliance with authorisation requirements	275 high-risk sites inspections
Inspection of radioactive sources (health) under the <i>Radiation Protection and Control Act 1982</i>	To assess compliance with registration requirements and ensure safety	110
Inspection of mining, petroleum and associated facilities under the <i>Radiation Protection and Control Act 1982</i>	To assess compliance with authorisation requirements	17
Surveys of aquaculture activity	To increase awareness of our expectation of environmental performance	20 surveys, 8 regions
Inspections of retail facilities	To identify non-compliant beverage containers and remove them from sale	300
Inspections of container collection depots	To assess compliance with the container deposit legislation	35
Inspections of retail facilities (plastic bags)	To identify non-compliant plastic bags and remove them from sale	100
Desktop validation of National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) reports	To ensure the quality and reliability of the reported data	100%
Audits of facilities with significant NPI emissions	To determine compliance with NPI reporting requirements	5
Emergency response	To provide an initial response to reports of environmental emergencies within 30 minutes	100%
	To attend incidents identified for mandatory attendance within two hours of our initial response (in metropolitan Adelaide)	100%
Incident response	To provide an initial response to calls relating to environmental incidents and complaints within three business days	85%

EPA Planning Framework



Support wellbeing and prosperity

Keep people informed and engaged

Be an effective and trusted regulator

Annual Compliance Plan

Partnerships and Engagement Framework

**High Performance Framework
Better Regulation
Risk Management
Project Management
Service Charter
Digital Strategy
Science Plan**

Our regulatory approach and annual compliance objectives and activities

Our strategies to inform, involve and engage the community and our stakeholders

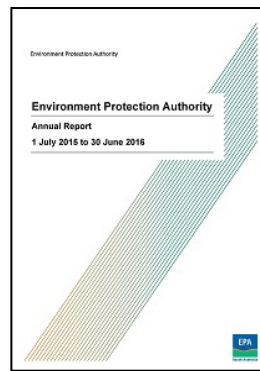
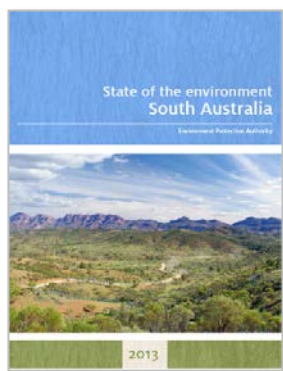
Our strategies to improve our organisational capability

FURTHER INFORMATION

To find out more about how the EPA is contributing to a better environment visit www.epa.sa.gov.au

State of the environment report 2013

The sixth report for South Australia reports the condition of the State's environment and the key environmental challenges



Annual Report

EPA performance and achievements are reported annually against our strategic directions and corporate plan