

2012
2015

Strategic Plan



our role

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) influences and regulates human activities to protect and restore our environment.

We are responsible for the protection of air and water quality, and the control of pollution, waste, noise and radiation. We work with the community, industry and governments to achieve a healthier environment and a prosperous and sustainable future for South Australia.

The EPA is responsible for administering the *Environment Protection Act 1993* and the *Radiation Protection and Control Act 1982* and also exercises responsibilities under other South Australian planning and environmental legislation.

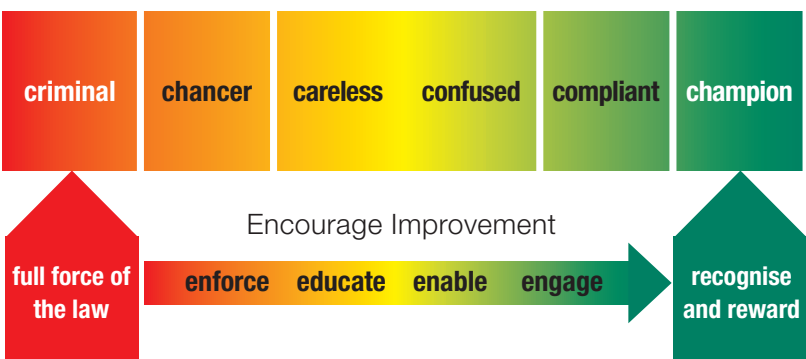
The EPA is the SA Government's independent environmental regulator. Independence is afforded in specific aspects of the EPA's environmental compliance and enforcement role. The EPA also operates as an integrated part of government. We contribute to the wider priorities of the SA Government, including the Strategic Priorities of Government and the longer term targets in South Australia's Strategic Plan.

The EPA achieves its outcomes through application of a suite of innovative and targeted tools drawn from the disciplines of law, science, education, economics, planning and expert advice. An appropriate mix of these tools is selected to support our business priorities. At the foundation of this is the EPA's regulatory approach.

our regulatory approach

We recognise that the majority of individuals and companies are willing to comply.

We tailor our regulatory actions across the full spectrum of circumstances, in particular to support and recognise those who demonstrate a commitment to good compliance and go beyond compliance to achieve outcomes such as greater sustainability, resource efficiency and best practice business processes. At the other end of the spectrum, we will seek to be robust in tackling failure to comply.



a better environment means . . .

working towards our long term environmental goals



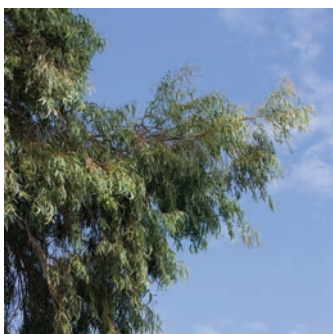
Good quality land

GOAL 1: Protect land from the adverse impacts of pollution and waste by addressing historical site contamination, advising and regulating industry and promoting sustainable waste management (through the waste hierarchy)



Good quality water

GOAL 2: Protect the quality of surface, ground, coastal and marine waters from pollution by monitoring water quality, advising and regulating industry and supporting water quality improvement projects



Good quality air

GOAL 3: Protect air quality from atmospheric pollutants, by monitoring air quality, including odour, advising and regulating industry and supporting community based air quality improvement initiatives



Protection from radiation

GOAL 4: Protect the environment and community from health risks associated with ionising and non-ionising radiation by advising and regulating sites, mines, equipment and users of radiation



Protection from noise

GOAL 5: Protect the community from exposure to unacceptable noise levels by advising and regulating industry and supporting local government and police with community based noise management

a better environment through . . .

our 2012–15 strategic priorities

Robust regulation

As a respected and effective advisor and regulator, the EPA will employ best practice regulatory principles and tools, and robust processes to:

- support and enable the willing
- tackle the important issues through taking a proportionate, risk and evidence based approach
- withstand challenge
- be decisive and timely in taking strong enforcement action when needed.

Sound science

To ensure the EPA's actions and decisions are appropriate and evidence based, sound science will be applied to:

- monitor and evaluate the condition of the environment
- assess potential environmental impacts to inform development assessment, licensing and compliance
- support legislation, policy, planning and management measures to mitigate environmental impacts.

Strategic influence and partnerships

The EPA will create effective partnerships and influence good environmental outcomes for all South Australians by:

- influencing planning and government strategy at an early stage

- strategically partnering with other organisations, industry and community
- promoting South Australia's environment at local, state, national and international levels.

Genuine engagement

The EPA will listen, acknowledge, consider and respond to the voices of those who have an interest in our actions by:

- expanding opportunities for engagement across industry, community and government
- making environmental information more accessible and easier to understand
- demonstrating good processes and clear rationale for our decisions and policies
- delivering excellent service.

Adaptive organisation

Being a well-run and high performing organisation is achieved through making the best use of available resources and by:

- recruiting, supporting and retaining focused, effective staff
- deploying strong leadership and building management capacity
- developing systems capability and maximising benefits from integrated functioning.

challenges for a better environment

The EPA delivers environmental and public health protection by identifying, prioritising and addressing the most significant potential or actual environmental harms. These harms are identified through ongoing assessment of the state of the environment and analysis of global, national and local environmental trends and ongoing pressures. The diagram below reflects the key inputs and linkages that support our vision through multiple goals and priorities, working with key partners, and continuing to identify and address pressures with specific, efficient and effective interventions.



In this context the EPA's short to medium term pressures are the environmental and human health risks and impacts associated with:

- 1 major point sources of pollution and waste
- 2 South Australia's legacy issues, particularly site and groundwater contamination and the interface of industry and residential dwellings
- 3 increasing urban and infrastructure development and renewal
- 4 inappropriate or illegal management of wastes and resource recovery
- 5 broader issues of statewide significance, eg management of the River Murray, potential impacts of renewable energy, and impacts of climate change
- 6 expansion of mining in South Australia and its associated infrastructure.



contact us

Environment Protection Authority

GPO Box 2607, Adelaide

South Australia 5001

Tel: (08) 8204 2000

epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au

www.epa.sa.gov.au