

# Media Release

## Environment Protection Authority



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### **Online access to new environmental authorisation applications**

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has today advised that details of new environmental authorisation applications (licences, works approval, exemptions) are now available on the EPA website.

The announcement is further confirmation of the EPA's commitment to providing access to a diverse range of information held on its public register and follows the uploading to the website in the past 12 months of a site contamination index of groundwater contamination notifications, site contamination audit reports and notifications, current EPA licences and completed prosecutions.

According to Director of Strategy and Sustainability Tony Circelli, it will now be easier to find out what information is held by the EPA and to facilitate more timely access to that information.

“The public will be able to view details of new authorisation applications received by the EPA and submit online comments relating to the application.

“The process of inviting public comment has always been available and this initiative will make it more accessible for interested members of the community to be involved early in the licensing process and have direct input into the development of licence conditions,” said Mr Circelli.

Applications will be open for online comment for 2 weeks. After this period all comments received by the EPA are provided to the applicant, with personal details removed. The applicant is then required to respond to the EPA about any issues raised.

The EPA then considers both the submissions and the response in any decision about granting or varying an environmental authorisation.

Late last year Minister for Environment and Conservation, Hon Paul Caica MP announced a change in the fee structure for accessing documents on the EPA Public Register.

The changes to charging for documents held on the public register ensures that members of the public are able to access documents at a significantly reduced cost and often at no cost.

“This is all part of the EPA promoting open and greater access to information,” said Mr Circelli.

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