



ENVIRONMENTAL OBLIGATIONS FOR THE WATER INDUSTRY

Environment Protection Authority

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40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY





Overview

- EPA Victoria Strategic direction
- EPA's approach to compliance and enforcement
- What the Water Industry can expect from EPA
- Next steps

EPA Victoria : Our Process



- EPA as an environmental regulator has obligations on the water industry.
- EPA's guidance will provide a statement of environmental obligations for the industry to identify funding needs.

EPA Process in preparing obligation statement

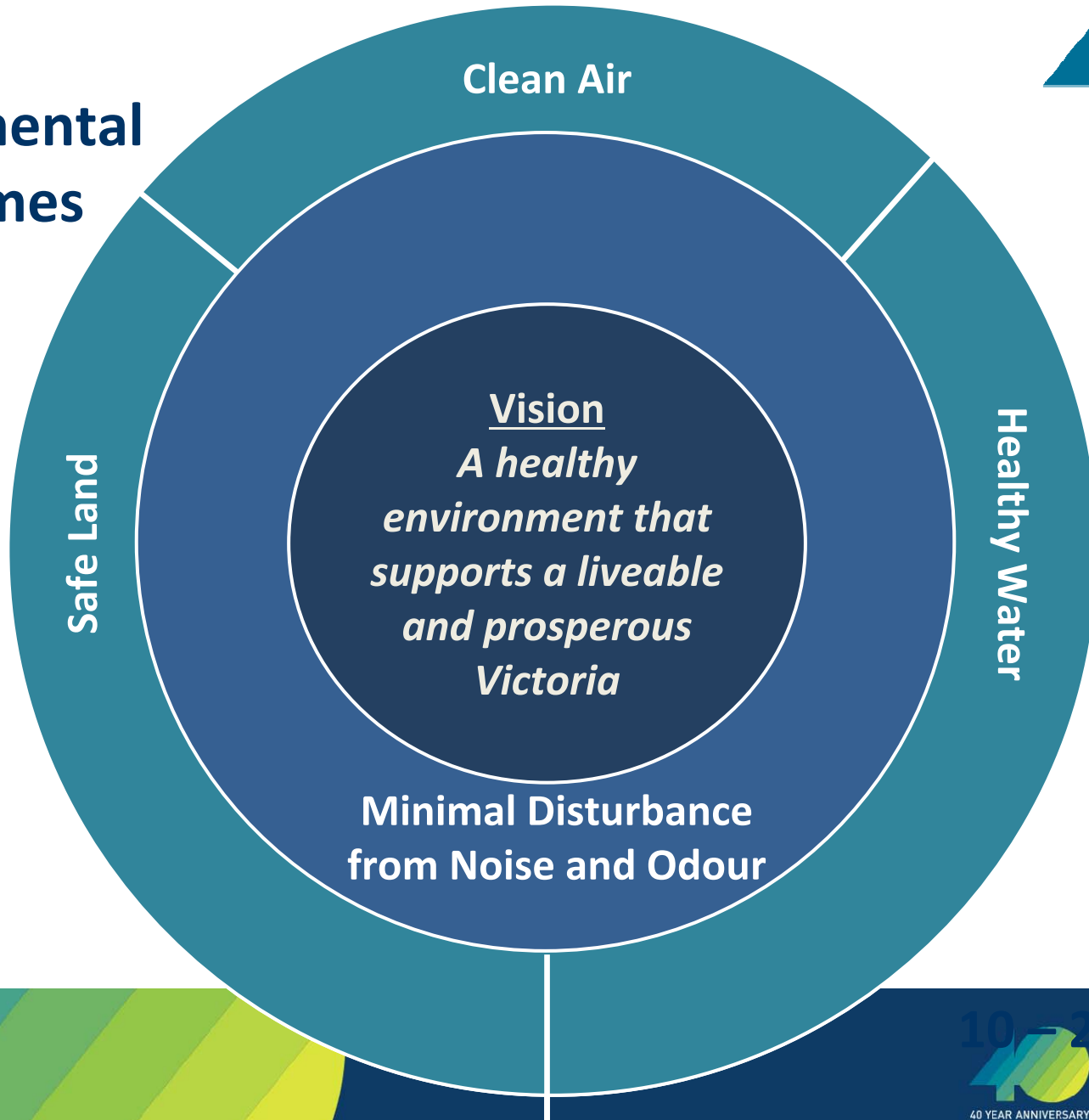
- Draft Guidance July 2011
- Consultation workshop if required
- Final guidance August 2011
- One-on one discussions with businesses to mid 2012.



Context - Environment and Water Industry



Our Environmental Outcomes



EPA 5 Year Plan – Priorities

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| Exercise our Regulatory Powers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidently & consistently communicate & apply the law • Use the full range of our regulatory powers, skills & tools • Understand causes & sources of harm to prevent environmental impacts • Provide authoritative & constructive compliance advice | <p>Deal with past pollution</p> <p>Reduce environmental and health impacts of historical contamination</p> | <p>Tackle current environmental issues</p> <p>Prevent pollution and improve efficiency of resource use</p> | <p>Shape the environmental future</p> <p>Avoid future impacts by anticipating and acting</p> |
| Apply our Knowledge & Authority | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use knowledge & evidence for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - authoritative decision-making - strategy, priorities and evaluation • Develop and maintain our expertise and networks | <p><i>Objectives:</i></p> <p>Improve transparency of management of contaminated environments and their impacts</p> <p>Enforce the law to ensure contaminated environments are safely managed</p> <p>Support the conversion of contaminated environments to assets</p> <p>Learn from the past to prevent future problems</p> | <p><i>Objectives:</i></p> <p>Tackle pollution and ensure compliance using a risk-based approach</p> <p>Support planning and development decisions to prevent impacts</p> <p>Minimise impacts of resource use</p> | <p><i>Objectives:</i></p> <p>Enhance the intelligence and communication of environmental quality and its drivers and impacts</p> <p>Ensure science and other evidence underpins decision-making at national, state and local levels</p> <p>Lead and influence strategies and standards that safeguard from future impacts</p> |
| Build Strong Partnerships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build cooperation to harmonise environmental regulation • Work effectively with our co-regulators • Foster contribution and collaboration with Victorians | | | |
| Transform to an Effective Organisation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build strong governance • Ensure integrated systems & processes • Develop positive culture & talented people • Maintain financial sustainability | | | |

Our Operating Model & Regulatory Approach





Compliance and Enforcement Policy

Policy released June 2011 articulates EPA's approach to:

- methods and priorities for ensuring compliance with our Acts
- carrying out compliance and enforcement activities

EPA will balance using our influence and enforcement tools to:

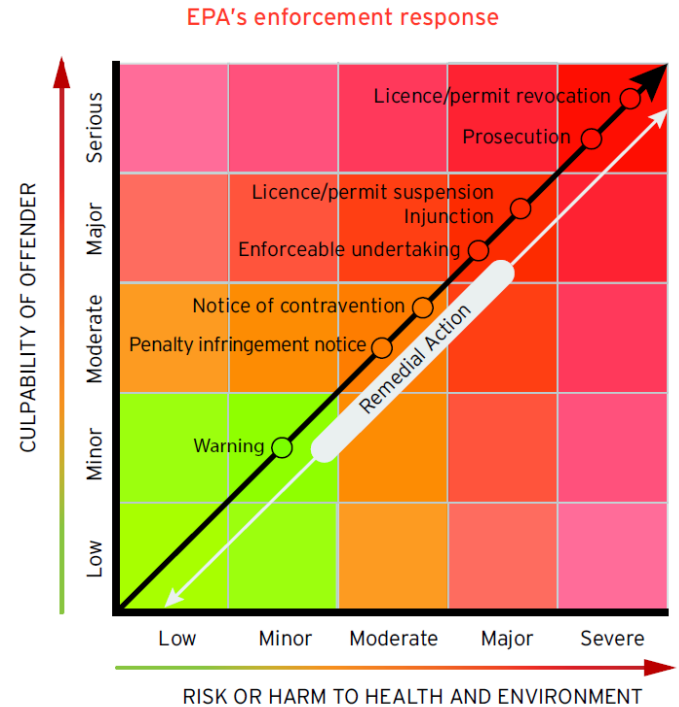
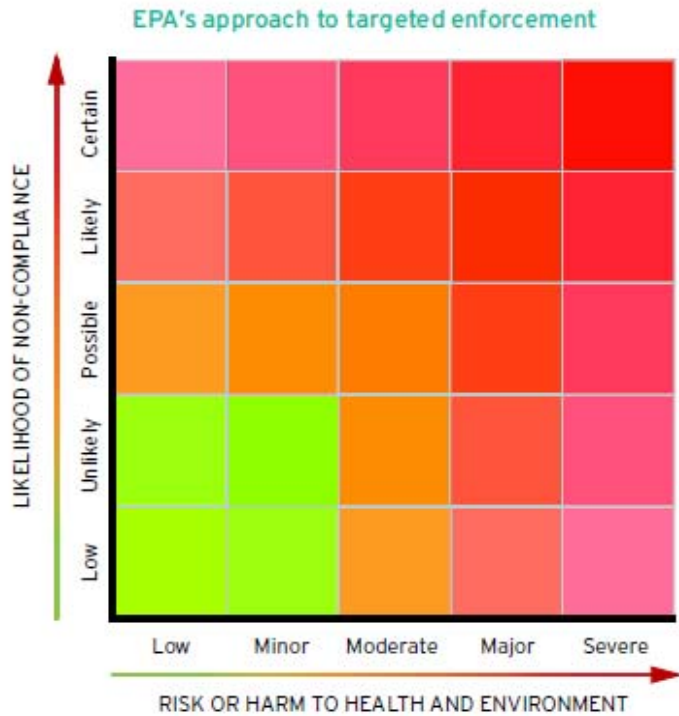
- Achieve compliance
- Uphold environmental standards
- Drive environmental improvement

EPA Victoria
Compliance and
Enforcement Policy





EPA's approach to enforcement





Statutory Policy Review

- EPA – DSE review of the Statutory Policy framework
- Seeking to provide more responsive, accessible guidelines with greater clarity of obligations
- This is not a review of individual policies
- Consultation underway

Seeking your views from now until August

June – released Discussion Paper

www.epa.vic.gov.au/statpolicy



Areas of focus for EPA

Some examples:

- The current status of compliance with current obligations
- Occurrences of emergency discharge (30As)
- Sewer overflows
- Biosolids
- Evidence of adaptive management



Summary

- There will not be significant changes in water industry obligations
- EPA is transforming the way it does business.
- Expect a change in the way compliance and enforcement is approached

Next Steps

- EPA draft Guidance document will be released July 2011
- Consultation and contact information will be made available on EPA's website, www.epa.vic.gov.au