

Our environmental goals

Clean and healthy air

Land and water that is fit for purpose

Communities protected from unacceptable noise

Sustainable use of resources

Communities protected from unacceptable radiation

Sustainability

We encourage and support businesses, industries, local government and communities in their efforts to prevent pollution, adopt clean production and technologies, reduce, reuse and recycle materials and natural resources and minimise waste. Some business activities can be harmful to the environment; however, industry sectors and the EPA are working together to minimise harm and reduce adverse effects on the environment by using effective systems for environmental management.

How to find us

Our head office is located at:

250 Victoria Square
Adelaide SA 5000 GPO Box 2607
Ph: (08) 8204 2000 Adelaide SA 5001

Contact us to obtain information
or report a pollution incident:
Phone: (08) 8204 2004
Freecall (non metropolitan only): 1800 623 445
Email: epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au

Visit us online at: www.epa.sa.gov.au

Environment Protection Authority

who we are... ...and what we do



Our Role

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is South Australia's leading environmental regulator, responsible for the protection of air and water quality, and the control of pollution, waste, noise and radiation.

We influence and regulate human activities to protect, enhance and restore the environment.

We administer the *Environment Protection Act 1993* and the *Radiation Protection and Control Act 1994* and have responsibilities under other South Australian planning and environmental legislation.

Regulation

As a regulatory body, we set and enforce standards and requirements that industries, companies and individuals must meet. We consult broadly with the community and industry to make sure that the standards we set are fair, clear, and are easy to understand and follow. When a company or individual is suspected of breaching environmental laws, we will investigate and, where a breach is found, we have a range of powers to achieve compliance. For more serious matters penalties can range from on-the-spot fines to court action.

What we do

- We licence over 2,000 businesses in South Australia. Licences set out environmental standards and conditions that those businesses must meet. We also license over 4,500 individuals who use or handle radioactive substances, or operate radiation equipment.
- We regularly inspect and audit and may investigate to ensure compliance with environmental laws, regulations and licence conditions. When necessary we take action to enforce these laws and conditions.
- We work in partnership with local government and other State Government agencies to protect the environment of local communities.
- Our Pollution Reporting and Information Hotline is a direct point of contact for the public to report environmental and pollution concerns and obtain helpful environmental information and referrals.
- We monitor and research environmental conditions and issues, providing science-based evidence for our decisions and advice.
- We work with businesses, industries and communities to improve the environmental sustainability of the South Australian economy.
- We assess the environmental impact of major projects and developments, and provide advice to other parts of government to help them make decisions about whether these developments should go ahead.
- Our Emergency Response team attends incidents that threaten to harm the environment – such as chemical spills, sewer overflows and illegal dumping. They provide expert technical advice to limit damage to the environment.
- We advise our Minister and other state government departments and agencies on environmental matters, issues and trends to inform policy and decision-making.

EPA at a glance



Monitoring our environment

We monitor the condition of the state's major waters, using ecological indicators to compare water quality with national guidelines. The focus is now on the water quality in the River Murray and Lower Lakes where we are monitoring the environmental impacts of declining water levels and exposed acid sulfate soils.



A community issue

The EPA has partnered with Nyrstar, Port Pirie Regional Council and SA Health, in the tenby10 project. EPA monitoring in Port Pirie now shows improved air lead levels and SA Health data shows a substantial lowering of children's blood lead levels. Nyrstar's new 10-year EPA licence requires ongoing reductions in lead emissions and continued environmental improvements to support tenby10.



Auditing compliance

During 2008-09, EPA officers undertook 1022 inspections, audits and assessments of licensed premises to ensure compliance with the Environment Protection Act and licence conditions. As a result businesses and industries in South Australia have reduced polluting emissions.



Radiation

Owners and operators of South Australian cosmetic tanning units (solaria) are now licensed by the EPA, to protect customers from increased risk of melanoma. Regular inspections are carried out to ensure that solaria and operators comply with the Radiation Protection Control (Non-iodising Radiation) Regulations which came into effect in March 2009.



Resource efficiency

The Adelaide Hills Wine Region (AHWR) is one of many industry groups working with the EPA to improve resource efficiency and environmental performance. The AHWR and the EPA are committed to preserving the natural Adelaide Hills environment and securing the region as a leader of sustainable viticulture and wine making.



Container deposit

The EPA's container deposit scheme has successfully reduced litter and promotes resource recovery. South Australians can collect a refund for each beverage container they return to a recycling depot. In 2008 the deposit and refund was increased from 5 cents to 10 cents per container, with an immediate increase in return rates. By increasing the incentive to recycle, less litter is seen on our streets.

Working together for a sustainable future

Businesses



"Together the EPA and the MTA provide resources and help members to reduce, reuse, recycle and better manage the impact of the automotive industry on the environment."
– Motor Trade Association (MTA) South Australia

Licenseses



"The EPA has maintained a collaborative approach working with NCA and this has been a major contributor to our environmental improvement and sustainability."
– New Castalloy (NCA) North Plympton

Householders



"I'm very interested in protecting water quality and particularly concerned about marine issues. The EPA's Healthy Waters initiative gave me a chance to have a say."
– Anna Waller Plympton

Local government



"The City of West Torrens has developed a strong working relationship with the EPA which benefits our residents and the community."
– Environmental Health City of West Torrens

Communities



"We really value the EPA's input to the ABC Community Liaison Group. It's helped us understand ABC's licence conditions and monitoring of emissions."
– Adelaide Brighton Cement (ABC) Community Liaison Group