

A new type of licence

The EPA Sustainability Licence has three components:

An outcome-based licence

Sustainability Licences maintain compliance requirements but conditions focus on the outcomes that are required rather than specifying the processes. This gives licensees greater scope to decide the best and most cost effective way to comply. The EPA will continue to make sure that companies comply with their licence conditions.

Certificates of compliance

A compliance certificate is an annual report signed by a senior officer of the company, such as the chief executive. It details what licence conditions have and have not been met during the reporting year, and what action is being taken to rectify any non-compliance.

An environmental sustainability agreement

The voluntary agreement requires businesses to measure their sustainability, identify opportunities for improvements, develop targets and a plan to achieve them and report on a regular basis. This will deliver sustainability outcomes such as improved resource efficiency, better relationships with the community and performing beyond minimum compliance.

To find out more about EPA Sustainability Licences, contact your licence coordinator or the EPA Customer Service Desk on 8204 2004 or visit the EPA website:

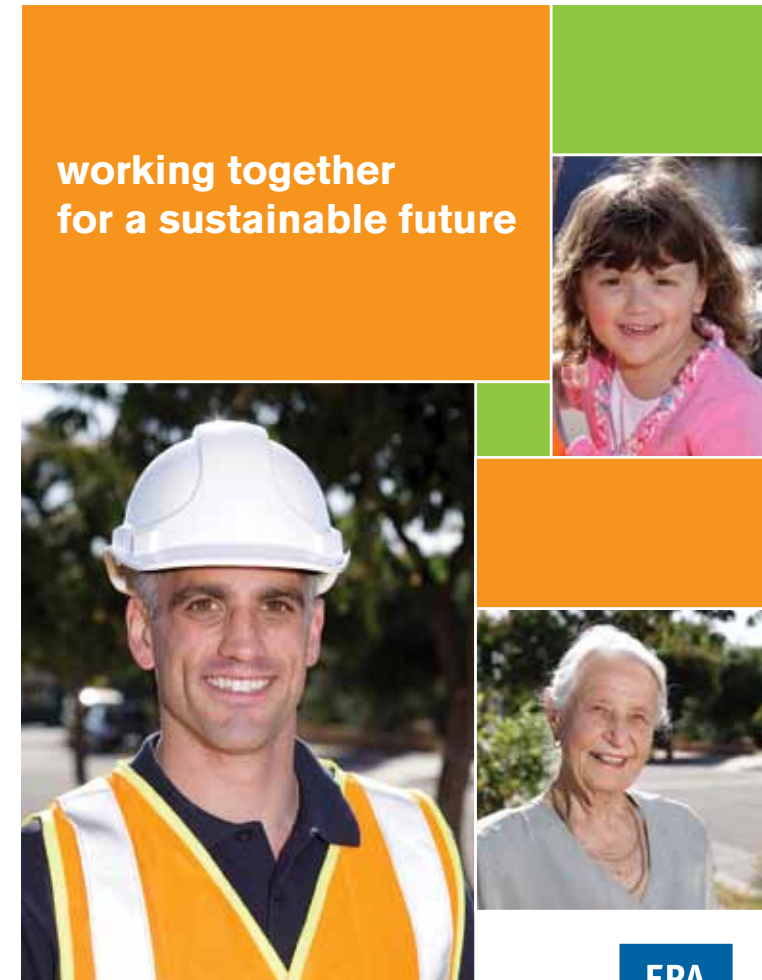
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Environment Protection Authority Sustainability Licences



Better environmental outcomes

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) recognises the importance of business, the community and government working together to achieve better environmental outcomes and business success.

That's why we're offering a new type of licence which streamlines licence conditions, combines multiple sites into one licence to reduce red tape for licence holders and provides recognition for licensed businesses who are working to become more sustainable.

EPA Sustainability Licences feature environmental sustainability agreements. These allow industries to voluntarily commit to actions above minimum compliance requirements that support a healthy environment now and into the future.

Environmental sustainability

The essence of environmental sustainability is meeting the needs of society today, while still providing for the needs of future generations.

EPA Sustainability Licences support environmental sustainability by requiring licensees to:

- maintain and exceed minimum environmental compliance
- produce less waste and use less water, energy and raw materials to improve resource efficiency
- engage with local communities and other stakeholders and be responsive to their concerns.

These outcomes also contribute to business sustainability, providing real benefits of reduced costs and increased profitability.



Business benefits

Saving money and reducing waste: companies will reduce energy use, water use and waste.

Reducing red tape and paperwork: multiple sites covered by one licence reduces the number of forms to fill out, streamlining and aligning reporting requirements.

More flexible conditions: businesses with a track record for behaving responsibly will be offered more flexible, outcome-based licence conditions.

A public commitment to environmental sustainability: EPA Sustainability Licences enable businesses to publicly demonstrate their environmental commitment.

Working with the EPA: The EPA supports businesses to become more sustainable, working together to resolve environmental issues.

Community outcomes

To qualify for an EPA Sustainability Licence a business must demonstrate a strong commitment to ongoing improvement in environmental performance.

These licences are still legally enforceable. The EPA will deal with breaches in the same way as with normal licence holders.

Businesses that have an EPA Sustainability Licence commit to taking extra care to make sure they are good neighbours. They must build and maintain strong, positive relationships with the community and other stakeholders. One of the best ways for a company to address concerns is by meeting with the community on a regular basis.

This allows the company to listen to their neighbours' concerns and also explain how their business works, so the community has a better understanding as well.

Neighbours who have concerns about a licence holder's operations are encouraged to contact the licensee to discuss the matter and work things out together. Where tension with neighbours or other stakeholders cannot be resolved, the EPA will help.

Finally, to ensure this is a transparent and open process, EPA Sustainability Licences and annual reports are publicly available on the EPA website.