

Regulatory Strategy

2024 - 2026



ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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Table of Contents

Introduction and Purpose.....	4
What we Regulate.....	4
Regulatory Approach	4
Setting our regulatory priorities.....	4
Values guiding our regulatory approach.....	5
Additional Focus Areas for Action 2024-2026	5
Strategy Review	5

Introduction and Purpose

A Regulatory Strategy is an evidence-based and intelligence-led business planning and communication tool that operates in conjunction with other business planning tools such as strategic, operational, and work plans. This *Regulatory Strategy 2024-2026* outlines the activities that the Tasmanian Environment Protection Authority (EPA) regulates and our regulatory approach, which is proportionate to the environmental risk posed by these activities. This provides transparency and accountability for the regulation of Level 2 activities and other environmentally relevant activities. The aim of the EPA is to minimise environmental impacts from these activities.

In addition, this Regulatory Strategy identifies four areas that concern emerging or complex regulatory issues that will receive a particular focus by the EPA over 2024-2026.

The EPA's Regulatory Strategy sets out:

- What we regulate
- Our regulatory approach and values
- Our additional focus areas and actions for 2024-2026.

What we Regulate

The EPA is the independent environmental regulator of multiple industries, and several hundred industrial and environmentally relevant activities. We aim to reduce pollution and prevent harm to human health and the environment, and to prevent environmental nuisance. The EPA regulates:

- Level 2 industrial activities, including marine and freshwater finfish farming, to minimise pollution and ensure that industry complies with environmental requirements that reflect acceptable environmental standards.
- The State's larger wastewater treatment plants.
- The State's larger landfills, waste recycling facilities, and controlled waste transport. We promote effective waste management to minimise waste and maximise resource recovery efficiency.
- Contaminated land to protect the environment and human health.
- Other environmentally relevant activities as necessary to ensure appropriate environmental outcomes.
- Illegal dumping of litter and waste to detect and deter this unacceptable behaviour.

Regulatory Approach

The EPA regulates in accordance with its *Compliance and Enforcement Policy*. It uses best-practice and standard regulatory methods that include continuous assessment, monitoring and enforcement of compliance with the relevant legislation and statutory tools, such as permits, environmental licences, environment protection notices, and contaminated land notices.

The EPA supports, encourages and monitors compliance through site inspections and audits. We act on identified non-compliance, taking a proportionate and risk-based approach consistent with the EPA's *Compliance and Enforcement Policy*.

Setting our regulatory priorities

The EPA also takes a risk-based approach to prioritising its work and making the best use of its resources. The industries, pollutants or activities that the EPA is responsible for are regulated using the approaches described above, statutory tools available to the EPA and in accordance with the EPA's *Compliance and Enforcement Policy*. The EPA's regulatory priorities are determined by obligations set out in law and the risks posed by the activities considering the following criteria:

- Overall risk to human health and the environment.
- The EPA's ability to influence.
- Extent and effectiveness of existing controls.

Values guiding our regulatory approach

Values that guide our regulatory approach align with those in the *EPA Strategic Plan 2023-2026*, being:

- Objectivity and professional rigour.
- Diversity and inclusiveness for all people.
- Leadership to improve environmental outcomes.
- Collaboration with stakeholders across industry, government, and the community.
- Transparency of our decisions and achievements.
- Professionalism in environmental management and individual conduct.

Additional Focus Areas for Action 2024-2026

Along with the continued day-to-day regulation of the activities for which the EPA is responsible, four additional focus areas have been selected for targeted action across 2024-2026. These four areas are identified as persistent, complex, and/or emerging risks for the State and are as follows:

Additional Focus Area 2024-2026	Actions
Risk Management at Metal Recycling Facilities	Enhance regulatory focus on the metal recycling sector to identify and address systemic issues. Undertake a program of targeted audits and regulatory compliance monitoring for metal recycling facilities.
Unauthorised industrial expansion of Level 1 and Level 2 activities in the extractive industry	Work with local government and other stakeholders to address unauthorised expansion of extractive activities. Undertake a program of audits of production return data in a sample of premises to inform regulation.
Salmon industry waste management	Review and identify the options for management of all relevant salmon industry waste streams. Review waste management plans to be developed by the salmon industry.
Environmental impacts from organics composting	Enhance regulatory focus on the organic composting sector to identify and address environmental risks. Review standards and guidelines used in other jurisdictions with a view to adopting one suitable for Tasmania to improve environmental outcomes.

Strategy Reporting & Review

Progress on actions for each of the focus areas will be tracked and reported on the EPA website. The Regulatory Strategy will be reviewed in 2026.



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