



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Environment Regulation**

Strategic Outline | 2016–17



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This document is available in alternative formats and languages on request to the Department of Environment Regulation.

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Foreword



Efficient and effective environment regulation is vital to support sustainable economic growth and development.

I congratulate the Department for its commitment to developing a framework for environment regulation in this State that strikes the right balance between proactive engagement of industry and environmental protection.

I am pleased to endorse this Strategic Outline for 2016–17, which will guide the Department of Environment Regulation to further improve environmental regulation, and develop and implement key programs in Western Australia.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Albert Jacob', with a large, stylized circular flourish at the end.

Hon Albert Jacob, MLA
Minister for Environment; Heritage

Environment Regulation in Western Australia

Message from the Director General

The 2015–16 period saw the development of the Environmental Regulatory Framework for the State.

Significant achievements for 2015–16 included:

- The Department developed and published its new framework and guidance material for discharging its functions under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (the Act).
- As part of the changes made through reform, existing industries can now seek approval for material changes to their premises through a licence amendment. The Department has also given effect to its guidance statement on licence duration by amending the expiry dates for most licences, to increase their duration to up to 20 years. This program has already resulted in a reduced administrative burden for both industry and the Department, with further efficiencies anticipated as reform progresses.
- The Department's Illegal Dumping Program has been established to provide dedicated enforcement capacity to address illegal dumping across the State. The program focuses on fostering key strategic partnerships with local governments to provide support and training in investigative strategies and techniques, covert surveillance and enforcement.
- The Light Industry Program, a joint initiative with the Department of Parks and Wildlife, is aimed at reducing the contaminants from non-residential land uses—light industrial and commercial activities—to groundwater and drainage systems in the priority Swan and Canning River catchments.

The Department is also continuing to focus on improving its performance through capability and cultural development with the introduction of:

- targeted professional development programs to build identified core capabilities;
- succession management strategies for critical occupational groups;
- training programs;
- scheduled performance assessments aligned to organisational priorities; and
- additional strategies to embed the Department's values—Responsive, Enabling, Focused, Innovative, Responsible and Effective.



A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jason Banks'.

Jason Banks
Director General
Department of Environment Regulation

Agency Overview

Our Services



Environmental Regulation—regulate activities with potential impacts on the environment.

Desired Outcome—emissions, discharges and clearing of native vegetation are effectively regulated to avoid unacceptable risks to public health and the environment.



Environment Policy—develop and implement policies and strategies that promote environmental outcomes.

Desired Outcome—development and implementation of strategic policy and legislation that promoted sustainable environmental outcomes.



Waste Strategies—reduce the environmental impact of waste.

Desired Outcome—waste avoided and the recovery of materials from landfill maximised.

Our Values



Responsive



Enabling



Focused



Innovative



Responsible

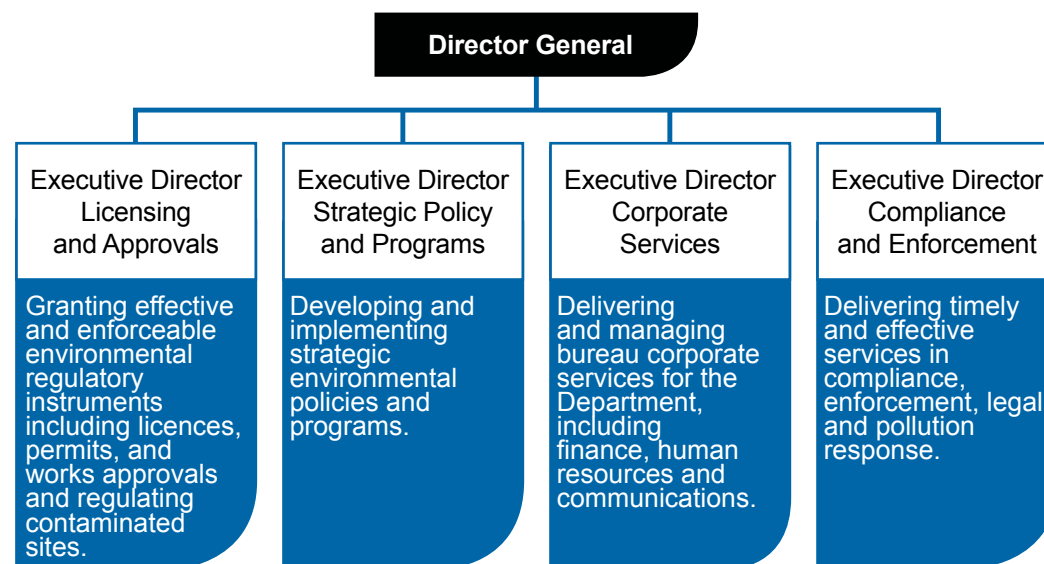


Effective

Our Purpose




To advise on and implement strategies for a healthy environment for Western Australia.

Our Corporate Structure



Performance

Services and Key Efficiency Indicators

|  | Regulate activities with potential impacts on the environment | 2016–17 Budget target |
|---|---|-----------------------|
| | Average Cost per Works Approval and Licence Application. | \$ 19,823* |
| | Average Cost per Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application. | \$ 7,296** |
|  | Develop and implement policies and strategies that promote environmental outcomes | 2016–17 Budget target |
| | Average Cost per Hour of Policy Advice and Recommendations. | \$ 103 |
|  | Reduce the impact of waste | 2016–17 Budget target |
| | Cost of Landfill Levy Compliance as a Percentage of Income Collected. | 3% |

*The Average Cost per Works Approval and Licence Application is calculated by dividing the total cost of Works Approval and Licence services by the total number of applications decided.

** The Average Cost per Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application is calculated by dividing the total cost of Native Vegetation activities by the total number of applications decided.

Outcomes and Key Effectiveness Indicators

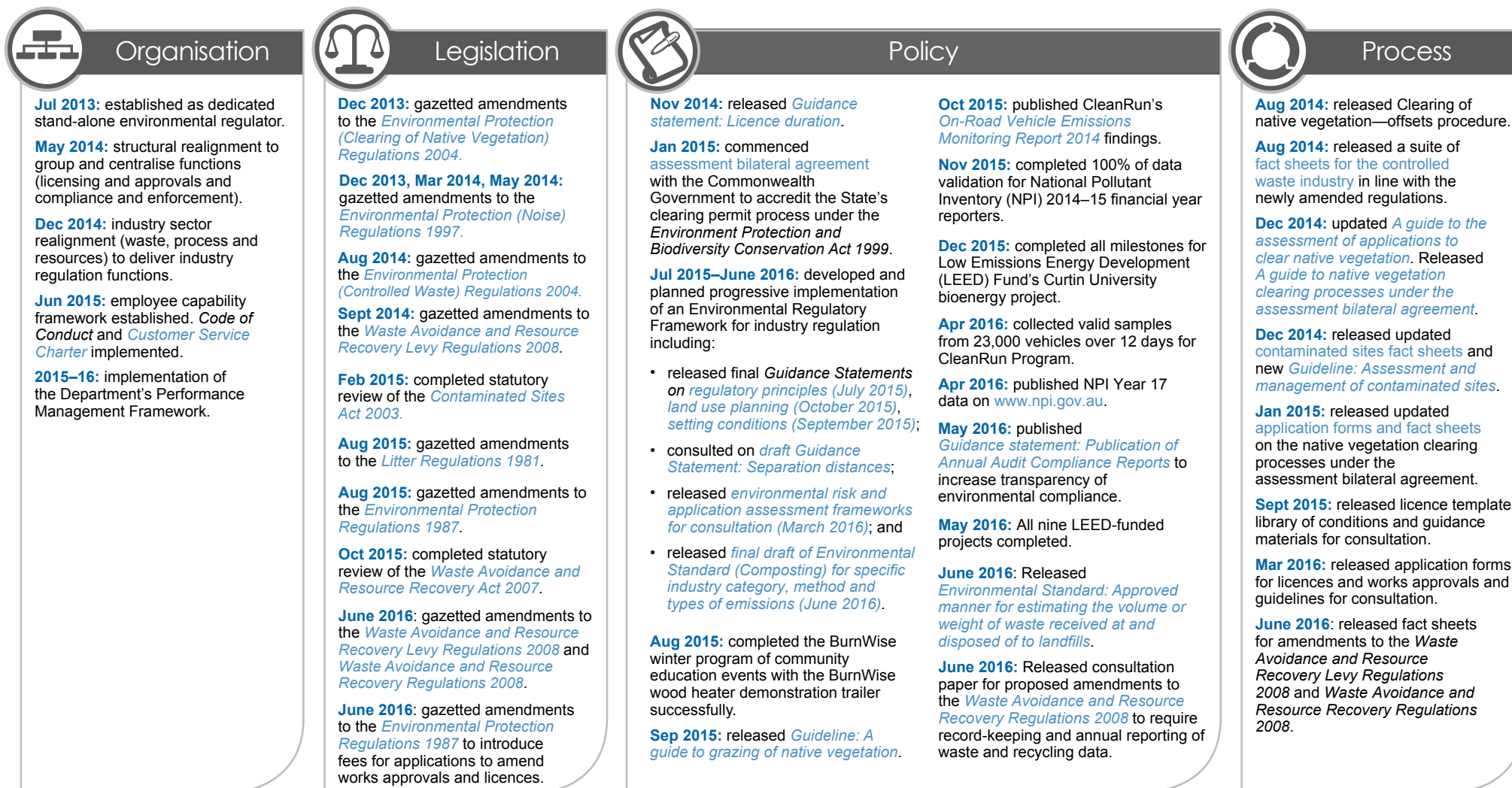
| ***Outcome 1. Emissions, discharges and clearing of native vegetation are effectively regulated to avoid unacceptable risks to public health and the environment | 2016–17 Budget target |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1.1 Percentage of major resource project works approvals and licences applications decided within 60 working days. | 100% |
| 1.2 Percentage of other project works approvals and licences applications decided within 60 working days. | 80% |
| 1.3 Percentage of native vegetation clearing permit applications decided within 60 working days. | 80% |
| 1.4 Percentage of investigations finalised within 60 working days. | 80% |

***During 2016-17 the Department will further consider additional KPIs that can be developed which, together with supporting information, will be relevant to report on the Department's effectiveness as an environmental regulator.





| Outcome 2. Development and implementation of strategic policy and legislation that promoted sustainable environmental outcomes | 2016–17 Budget target |
|--|-----------------------|
| 2.1 Percentage of advice and recommendations that met Ministerial approval, without the need for significant modification. | 95% |
| Outcome 3. Waste avoided and the recovery of materials from landfill maximised | 2016–17 Budget target |
| 3.1 Percentage of Municipal Solid Waste reported as diverted from landfill through recycling compared to the Waste Strategy target in the Perth Metropolitan Region. | 50% |
| 3.2 Percentage of Commercial and Industrial Waste reported as diverted from landfill through recycling compared to the State-wide Waste Strategy target. | 55% |
| 3.3 Percentage of Construction and Demolition Waste reported as diverted from landfill through recycling compared to the State-wide Waste Strategy target. | 60% |

Where Have We Come from? (2013–14 to 2015–16)

The ‘four pillars’ (Organisation, Legislation, Policy and Process) represent the building blocks under which the agency delivers services.



Where are We Going? (2016–17 to 2019–20)

|  Organisation |  Legislation |  Policy |  Process |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>2016–17: continued development and implementation of the Capability Development Program, including regulatory and Policy Officer training.</p> <p>2016–17: continued implementation of the Expertise Framework, incorporating a succession management strategy for critical occupational groups.</p> <p>2016–18: continued development and implementation of improved business systems and customer service solutions.</p> | <p>2016–17: continue to progress legislative amendments to the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>, <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i> and <i>Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004</i>.</p> <p>2016–17: continue to progress amendments to the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> and <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i> to facilitate bilateral agreements under the <i>Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>2016–17: consider amendments to Schedule 1 of the <i>Environmental Protection Regulations 1987</i> to clarify the definition of landfill and application of the levy following the Eclipse decision.</p> <p>2016–17: develop amendments to the <i>Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004</i> to streamline processes for the regulation of the transportation of controlled waste.</p> <p>2016–17: the <i>National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999</i> gazettal and the making and revocation of contaminated sites guidelines.</p> <p>2016–17: develop and progress amendments to the <i>Contaminated Sites Regulations 2006</i>.</p> | <p>2016–17: continue to develop and implement an Environmental Regulatory Framework for industry regulation.</p> <p>2016–17: complete the development of a WA offsets tool and guide for the agricultural south west of Western Australia, to support decision-making including for processes part of bilateral agreements under the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>.</p> <p>2016–17: develop waste plans under the <i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007</i>, consistent with the outcomes of the statutory review, to promote alignment of local government planning with State planning.</p> | <p>2016–17: continue to improve Industry Regulation performance through development and implementation of Operational Procedures.</p> <p>2016–17: continue to develop and implement a Compliance and Enforcement Strategy, including through Operational Procedures.</p> <p>2016–17: release final guideline: <i>Identification, reporting and classification of contaminated sites in Western Australia and updated guidance for the WA accredited auditor scheme</i>.</p> <p>2016–17: continue to improve regulation of contaminated sites through development and implementation of Operational Procedures.</p> |

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