



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Environment Regulation

# Strategic Outline | 2015–16



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# Foreword

## Message from the Minister



As an environment regulator the Department of Environment Regulation is focused on improving its business operations to ensure the best environmental outcomes from efficient streamlined regulatory processes.

I am pleased to endorse the Strategic Outline for 2015–16, which provides a framework to further improve environmental regulation in Western Australia. The Department's improved focus on its regulatory role is better enabling the State Government to achieve its vision of thriving economic and social development and a healthy environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Albert Jacob'.

Hon Albert Jacob, MLA  
Minister for Environment; Heritage



# Environment regulation in Western Australia

The 2014–15 year was a period of legislative and policy review for the Department of Environment Regulation.

Significantly, these reviews provide the basis for improvements in environmental regulation and policy in Western Australia, the key directions of which include:

- identification and development of proposed legislative reforms to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*;
- identification of the imperative for a new licensing regime and policy framework for environmental regulation of industry;
- progression of the *review of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*;
- the commencement of a new assessment bilateral agreement under the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* which accredits the clearing permit process under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* for the first time; and
- completion of the *review of the Contaminated Sites Act 2003* and the beginning of process improvements to support the operation of the Act.

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

- new capability and performance/development frameworks for staff;
- a new *Code of Conduct* and *Customer Service Charter*;
- an expertise framework to invest in the development of technical experts;
- strategies to embed the Department's values – **Responsive, Enabling, Focused, Innovative, Responsible and Effective**.

The period 2015–16 promises to be a watershed year for the Department as the groundwork that has been laid starts to deliver dividends in terms of improved operational performance.

**Jason Banks**  
**Director General**  
**Department of Environment Regulation**

# Our goal

To be regarded as a credible environmental regulator, an effective policy adviser and program deliverer by the community, industry and government.

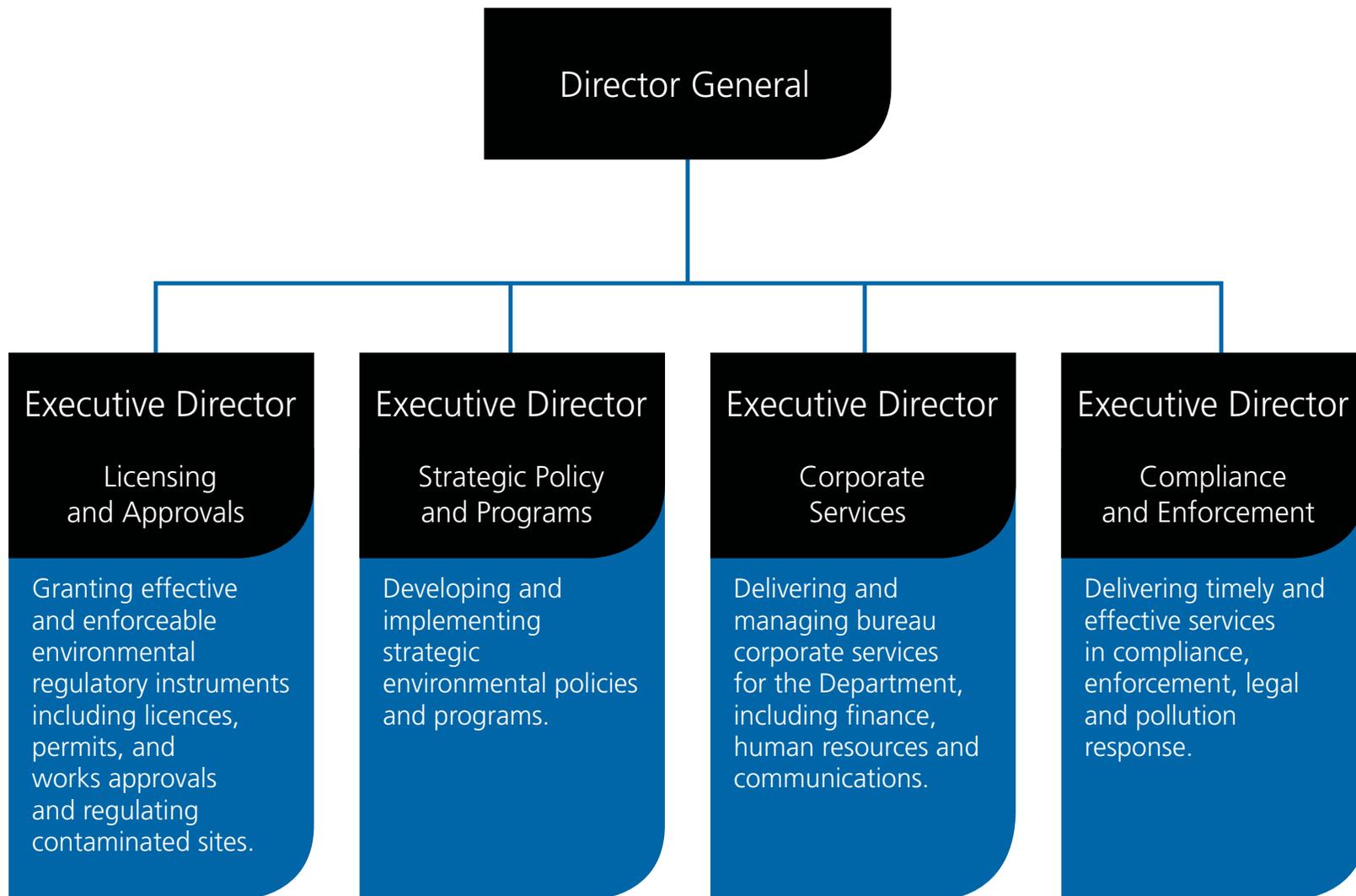
## Agency services summary

- 1** Environmental Regulation  
—regulate activities with potential impacts on the environment.
- 2** Environmental Policy  
—develop and implement policies and strategies that promote environmental outcomes.
- 3** Waste Strategies  
—reduce the environmental impact of waste.

# Our purpose



# Our corporate structure



# Our values

REFIRE—our values in practice

	<b>RESPONSIVE</b>
	<b>ENABLING</b>
	<b>FOCUSED</b>
	<b>INNOVATIVE</b>
	<b>RESPONSIBLE</b>
	<b>EFFECTIVE</b>

# Our focus

- Protecting public health
- Minimising environmental impact
- Implementing environmental policy
- Maximising agency performance

# Where have we come from? (2013–14 to 2014–15)



## Organisation

**Jul 2013:** established as dedicated stand-alone environmental regulator.

**May 2014:** structural realignment to group and centralise functions (licensing and approvals, compliance and enforcement).

**Dec 2014:** industry sector realignment (waste, process and resources) to deliver industry regulation functions.

**Jun 2015:** employee capability framework established. *Code of Conduct* and *Customer Service Charter* implemented.



## Legislation

**Dec 2013:** gazetted amendments to the *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*.

**Dec 2013, Mar 2014, May 2014:** gazetted amendments to the *Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997*.

**Aug 2014:** gazetted amendments to the *Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004*.

**Sept 2014:** gazetted amendments to the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008*.

**Feb 2015:** completed statutory review of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003*.

**Jun 2015:** progressed statutory review of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*.



## Policy

**June 2014:** Low Emissions Energy Development (LEED) Fund projects Richgro anaerobic digester and City of Kalgoorlie-Boulder pool heating project completed all milestones.

**Nov 2014:** released *Guidance statement: Licence duration* and released *Guidance statement: Regulating the use of waste-derived materials*.

**Nov 2014:** CleanRun roadside monitoring with a remote sensing device undertaken over ten days, with a community vehicle testing day held in March 2015 at Kings Park.

**Jan 2015:** commenced assessment bilateral agreement with the Commonwealth Government to accredit the State's clearing permit process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

**Jun 2015:** LEED-funded Carnegie Wave Energy successfully completed all milestones.



## Process

**Aug 2014:** released *Clearing of native vegetation—offsets procedure*.

**Aug 2014:** released a suite of fact sheets for the controlled waste industry in line with the newly amended regulations.

**Dec 2014:** updated *A guide to the assessment of applications to clear native vegetation*. Released *A guide to native vegetation clearing processes under the assessment bilateral agreement*.

**Dec 2014:** released updated contaminated sites fact sheets and new guideline: *Assessment and management of contaminated sites*.

**Jan 2015:** updated application forms and fact sheets on the native vegetation clearing processes under the assessment bilateral agreement.

# Where are we going? (2015–16 to 2017–18)



## Organisation

**2015–16:** implementation of the Department's performance management framework.

**2015–17:** development and implementation of the Department's Capability Development Program, including regulatory and policy officer training.

**2015–17:** implementation of the Department's Expertise Framework incorporating a succession management strategy for critical occupational groups.

**2015–18:** development and implementation of improved business systems and customer service solutions.



## Legislation

**2015–16:** implementation of the outcomes of the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* review.

**2015–16:** complete the statutory review of the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007*.

**2015–17:** progress legislative amendments to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, *Environmental Protection Regulations 1987* and *Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004*.



## Policy

**2015–16:** develop and implement an environmental regulatory framework for industry regulation including:

- release of Guidance Statements on regulatory principles, land use planning, setting conditions and separation distances;
- release of environmental risk and application assessment frameworks; and
- release of Environmental Standards for specific industry categories, methods and types of emissions.

**2015–16:** develop further material guidelines, processes and procedures to support the end-of-waste framework.

**2015–16:** release guideline: *A guide to grazing of native vegetation*.

**2015–16:** four further Low Emissions Energy Development-funded projects are scheduled to be completed.

**2015–16:** develop and implement a Compliance and Enforcement strategy, including implementing a *Guidance statement: Annual audit compliance reports*.



## Process

**2015–16:** release application forms for licences and works approvals and guidelines.

**2015–16:** release licence template, library of conditions and guidance materials.

**2015–16:** release guideline: *Submitting an application for the use of waste-derived materials (case-by-case determination)*.

**2015–16:** release updated guidelines and process improvements resulting from the *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* review.

# How we do business (2015–16)



Focus	Priorities	Strategies/Activities	Performance/Deliverables
Protecting public health	Regulatory performance	I. Maintain performance against target approval timeframes.	I. Deliver quarterly reporting on regulatory performance, including sector-based regulation.
		II. Undertake risk-based monitoring and compliance program.	II. Complete the 2015–16 compliance program.
		III. Initiate enforcement action when appropriate.	III. Deliver quarterly reporting on enforcement activity.
		IV. Respond to hazardous pollution events.	IV. Provide timely response to incidents and reduce potential impacts on public health and the environment.
Minimising environmental impact	Regulatory reform	I. Introduce legislative changes to enhance regulatory regimes, including amendments to the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .	I. Introduce endorsed changes within agreed timeframes.
		II. Implement a holistic regulatory framework, supported by standards, procedures, guidance material and business processes to deliver risk-based effective and efficient industry regulation.	II. Introduce reform products within agreed timeframes.

# How we do business (2015–16)



Focus	Priorities	Strategies/Activities	Performance/Deliverables
Implementing environmental policy	Ministerial services	I. Provide quality, timely and strategic advice and services to the Minister for Environment.	I. Deliver within agreed timeframes to Minister's satisfaction.
Maximising agency performance	Development, training and culture	I. Develop and deliver targeted capability development programs to support agency reform and succession management initiatives.	I. Deliver Department-wide regulatory training program.
		II. Implement the Department's Expertise Framework.	II. Appoint principal and associate experts in key areas including noise, air quality and hydrogeology.
		III. Further establish the Corporate Leadership Group as a key mechanism to developing a values-based culture within the Department.	III. Deliver Department-wide strategies to embed the Department's values.

# Our performance

## Outcomes: Key Effectiveness Indicators



Outcome: Emissions and discharges met acceptable criteria	2015–16 Budget Target
Percentage of major resource project works approvals and licences applications decided within 60 working days.	100%
Percentage of other project works approvals and licences applications decided within 60 working days.	80%
Percentage of native vegetation clearing permit applications decided within 60 calendar days.	80%
Percentage of investigations finalised within 60 working days.	80%
Outcome: Development and implementation of strategic policy and legislation that promoted sustainable environmental outcomes	2015–16 Budget Target
Percentage of advice and recommendations that met Ministerial approval, without the need for significant modification.	95%
Outcome: Waste avoided and the recovery of materials from landfill maximised	2015–16 Budget Target
Percentage of Municipal Solid Waste reported as diverted from landfill through recycling compared to the Waste Strategy target in the Perth Metropolitan Region.	50%
Percentage of Commercial and Industrial Waste reported as diverted from landfill through recycling compared to the State-wide Waste Strategy target.	55%
Percentage of Construction and Demolition Waste reported as diverted from landfill through recycling compared to the State-wide Waste Strategy target.	60%

# Our performance

## Services: Key Efficiency Indicators



Service 1: Environmental Regulation – regulate activities with potential impacts on the environment	2015–16 Budget Target
Average Cost per Works Approval and Licence Application.	\$39,031*
Average Cost per Native Vegetation Clearing Permit Application.	\$5,689**
Service 2: Environmental Policy – develop and implement policies and strategies that promote environmental outcomes	2015–16 Budget Target
Average Cost per Hour of Policy Advice and Recommendations.	\$100
Service 3: Waste Strategies – reduce the impact of waste	2015–16 Budget Target
Cost of Landfill Levy Compliance as a Percentage of Landfill Levy Income Collected.	1.4%

\* 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.

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