



Regulatory best practice principles

September 2018

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) administers a range of legislation as part of the delivery of its regulatory functions.

The following principles are intended to guide the department in the delivery of its regulatory functions.

1. Risk based

- DWER will make regulatory decisions proportionate to the level of risk posed to public health, the environment and water resources with consideration of cumulative impacts.
- DWER resources will be targeted to the greatest risks to public health, the environment and water resources.

2. Evidence based

- DWER will apply an evidence-based approach based on the best available information including sound science to inform regulatory decision-making.

3. Transparent

- DWER will consult with our stakeholders in relation to proposed regulatory policies and plans.
- DWER will provide clear publicly available, reliable and relevant information on regulatory processes and requirements.
- DWER will be informed by the public and consider the public interest in regulatory decision-making.
- DWER will apply the rules of procedural fairness to all regulatory functions.

4. Collaborative

- DWER will work collaboratively with other regulators to share information, avoid unnecessary regulatory duplication and support whole-of-government outcomes.

5. Consistent

- DWER's regulatory actions will be consistent with legislation and within statutory powers.
- DWER's regulatory outcomes will be consistent and predictable for similar circumstances.

6. Responsive and effective

- DWER will respond in an effective and timely manner.

Administration of legislation

In delivering regulatory functions and the administering legislation, the department will have regard for the object and principles of the Act for which the regulatory matter relates.