

Information sheet

Environmental Protection Act 1994

Developing a good environmental performance history

This information sheet provides details of how to develop a good environmental performance history.

The Department of Environment and Science (DES) has made changes to the way it regulates environmental authorities. By setting the environmental outcomes that must be achieved, DES will leave it up to the holder of the environmental authority (EA) to develop tailor-made solutions that can benefit all aspects of their business. By identifying environmental risks and managing them, the EA holder will be on the right path to establishing a good performance history with us.

A person making an application for an environmental authority needs to be aware of the following:

1. The EA holder is responsible for identifying and implementing actions to achieve the environmental outcomes that are set by DES

The environmental authority will state the environmental outcomes that the EA holder must meet. Unless the risk of causing environmental harm is high, DES may not expressly tell the EA holder how to meet the required outcomes. This enables the EA holder to adopt flexible and innovative practices tailored to meet the outcomes that have been set and deliver benefits for the business.

2. The EA holder is responsible for managing the environmental risks

The EA holder is responsible for all aspects of the businesses environmental performance. As the EA holder is able to put in place their own systems to help achieve the outcomes set by DES, the environmental risks associated with the activities must be identified and managed by the EA holder.

3. The EA holder is responsible for obtaining the right approvals to meet the environmental outcomes that are set by DES

This means that if the right approvals aren't in place or the EA holder isn't meeting the required outcomes, then DES will enforce the law and take necessary regulatory actions. This will ensure that those who are doing the right thing aren't disadvantaged by those who don't.

4. If an EA holder is a good environmental performer and the risk to the environment from their activity is low, you will see less of us.

Businesses with a good environmental performance history will be rewarded with less frequent inspections by DES where the risk to the environment is not high. An added benefit to good environmental performers is that DES will focus its attention on competing businesses that are not demonstrating the required level of performance. DES has set clear rules and will take fair and reasonable action where required.

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Further information

If you have any queries about holding an environmental authority and developing a good environmental performance history, you can contact the department on 13QGOV (13 74 68) or email palm@des.qld.gov.au. Alternatively you can download an Application for a pre-design/pre-lodgement meeting form from the department's website at www.des.qld.gov.au using the publication number ESR/2015/1664 as a search term.

For further information, search for the 'Regulatory Strategy' on the department's website (www.des.qld.gov.au).

Disclaimer

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Version history

Version	Date	Description of changes
1.00	19 November 2014	Document first published
1.01	5 August 2016	Updated corporate style and included publication number ESR/2016/2234.
1.02	11 June 2018	Document rebranded to align with machinery of government changes