

EPA Regulatory Strategy

We are committed to becoming a world-class regulator through:

- an **outcomes focus** – this means we focus on the impact of what we, industry and the community do, rather than just on setting and following rules. Focusing on this impact is essential to making sure we are delivering public value by improving environmental and human health outcomes
- being **service-orientated** – bringing community, government, industry and other stakeholders together to solve problems, responding in a timely manner to requests, queries and incidents, and communicating clearly and respectfully with meaningful content
- a **learning mindset** – continuously developing and building expertise to improve how we regulate and tackle environmental and human health problems
- being **responsive and adaptive** – listening, identifying and responding to risks and opportunities to reduce or prevent harm using contemporary tools, technology and data
- being **purpose and people centred** – our purpose informs everything we do – healthy environments, economies and communities

The challenges we face

As the state's primary environmental regulator, we are faced with complex issues that span local, state and national boundaries. We will continually adapt our approach to these regulatory challenges in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for the people of NSW and the generations to come after us. We will make changes to improve our services and regulatory processes over time.

The challenges we face include:

- **Protecting human health** – the quality of our environment has an impact on our health. We need to keep up-to-date on the potential impacts of substances and industry processes on human health to ensure the right regulatory precautions are in place.
- **Degradation of our environment** – human development is a major cause of environmental degradation. It's depleting and degrading natural resources, harming ecosystems, causing the loss of biodiversity and creating pollution. We need to keep pace with the demands for development and use of natural resources, and understand the impact of these demands on the state of the natural environment.
- **Ecologically sustainable development** – regulation is needed to carefully balance the protection of the environment with development and land-use needs. We need to give advice on how to protect the environment and human health before a land-use decision is made where we have the opportunity, and act to protect, restore and enhance the environment when we have a role in regulating an activity after another government body has made a land-use decision.
- **Reducing waste** – over-consumption and the increasing generation of waste as the global population and living standards rise is a world-wide issue. We need to work with the community, industry, the research and science sectors, and all levels of government to reduce waste and support the reuse and recycling of waste as a resource.
- **Climate change** – the impact of changing climate conditions from rising greenhouse gases is a complex global issue. We need to partner with government, peak bodies and research organisations to find and progress solutions towards net-zero emissions by 2050 under the NSW Climate Change Policy framework.
- **Environmental crime** – despite the significant environmental and human health harm that can result from wilful wrongdoing, detecting environmental crime and identifying who is responsible is immensely difficult. We must be better at detecting crime and empower the community to be involved so the full force of the law can be used to combat environmental crime.

Our regulatory approach

