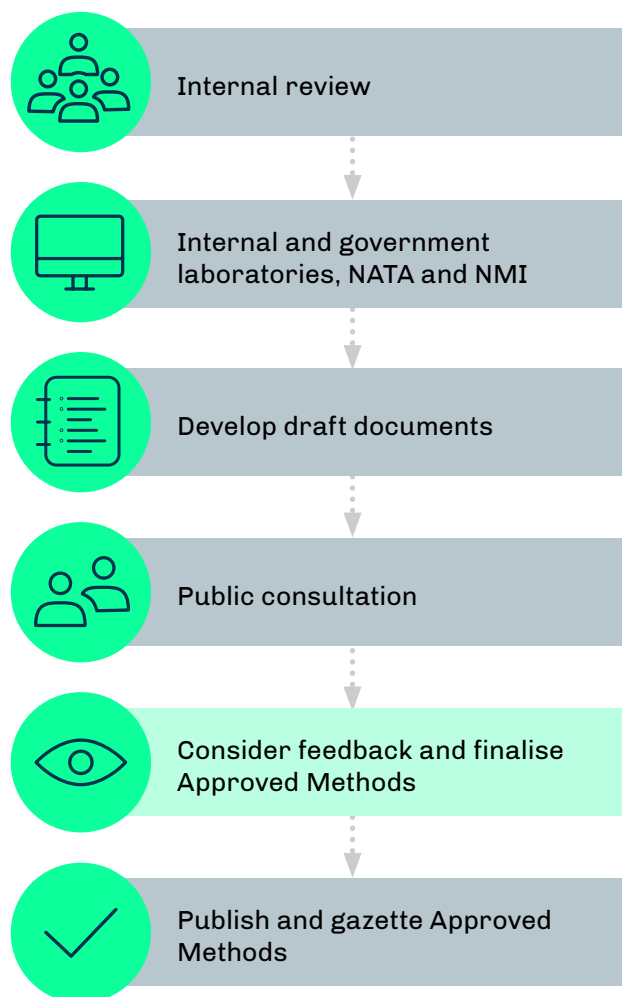


Draft Approved Methods for air, water and noise: public consultation preliminary summary July 2021

The NSW Environment Protection Authority held public consultation on the draft Approved Methods documents for air, water and noise between 19 April and 31 May 2021.

What was the consultation process?

The public consultation was conducted so industry, consultants and laboratories, technical and professional bodies, community and government stakeholders could provide feedback on the draft Approved Methods documents. The process for developing the documents is shown below. The EPA is now considering feedback and will seek clarification, as appropriate, before finalising the documents.



How did we engage?

We used many methods to engage with our stakeholders, including:

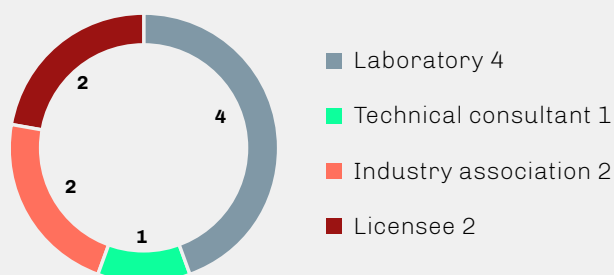
- notification emails
- website
- social media
- direct communication
- web surveys.



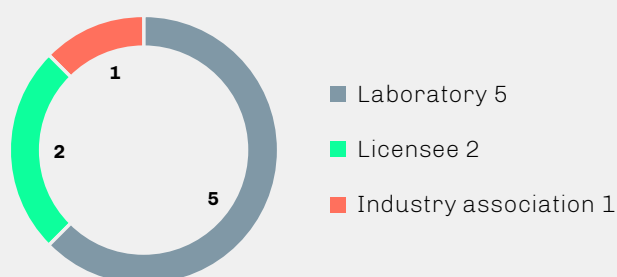
Who did we hear from?

We heard from a number of different stakeholders from different areas.

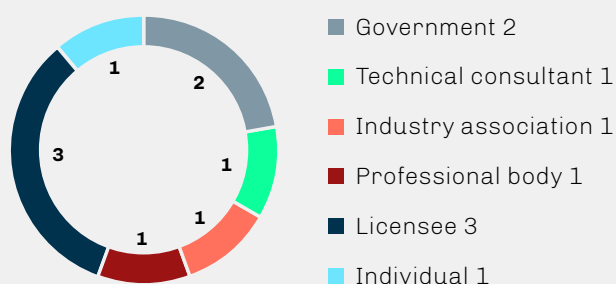
Respondents – air approved methods



Respondents – water approved methods



Respondents – noise approved methods



What did we hear?

We heard a range of technical feedback from our stakeholders. Key themes included suggestions for additional approved methods for certain substances and analytes for the air and water documents and the use of additional references and standards when approving methods for substances not listed.

Stakeholders asked for the Air and Water documents to be clearer about:

- the use of new technology and recognition of methods previously approved by the EPA
- the use of accredited in-house methods that may or may not be based on the listed methods
- particulate terminology (in the air document).

Stakeholders also asked for more clarity and guidance in the Noise document on:

- the mandatory aspects of the noise document
- measurement location and meteorological monitoring for noise measurements.

In other comments regarding the Noise Approved Methods, stakeholders:

- asked for examples and flowcharts to clarify and simplify requirements
- requested flexibility in relation to the competency requirements
- raised technical issues about
 - calibration requirements
 - how impulsive and intermittent noise should be described
 - linkages with Australian Standards and EPA's guidelines.

Some stakeholders asked for more information about how the EPA will apply the noise document.

What are the next steps?

We are reviewing in detail every submission we received.

We will prepare a submissions report that will address both the comments made and how the EPA will consider and address them when finalising the Approved Methods documents.

If you have any questions, or want to learn more about this initiative, contact us by:

Phone 131 555

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NSW Environment Protection Authority

Email: info@epa.nsw.gov.au

Website: www.epa.nsw.gov.au

EPA 2021P3148

July 2021

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