

EPA Regulatory Strategy Consultation Outcomes



The EPA's Regulatory Strategy was open for public consultation during February and March 2021. This is the EPA's first Regulatory Strategy which has been developed as part of our commitment to becoming a world-class regulator.

This is an overview of the key themes that emerged from consultation with the community, industry and government.

What did we do?



40,000+ stakeholder mailout



public submissions process



stakeholder survey



'Have your say' webpage



roadshow sessions at 12 locations across NSW for local government and industry representatives

How many people did we hear from?



conversations with 496 participants at EPA roadshow sessions



meetings with peak bodies and interest groups



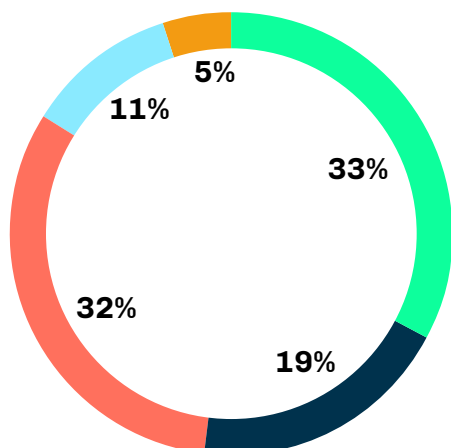
284 survey responses



31 emailed written submissions

Who did we hear from online?

% of total



- Community member
- Government, local council, state agency
- Business, licensee, peak body
- Non-government, charity, environmental
- Education, research organisation

“ Education has to be fundamental ”

What did we hear?

- It's important to educate the community, industry and government about human health and environmental issues
- We need to empower decision making for people to take environmental outcomes into account in their businesses and practices. We will do this by providing clear expectations and guidance and listening and communicating with the regulated community
- We need to investigate problems by using sound science and partnering with research organisations, the community, industry and government
- We need to think about how we will implement the new regulatory approach and evaluate its effectiveness
- The strategy's principles are very important to the people of NSW – including intergenerational equity, the precautionary principle and having regard for our traditional custodians' perspective.

Feedback



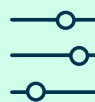
Regulatory approach

- needs more emphasis on education
- be service-oriented
- engage early and often – understand and respond to help solve problems
- ensure we are consistent in our decision making
- let the community know about the work the EPA does
- provide local communications for local issues – engage with local communities
- regulation needs to keep pace with change
- clarity of expectations for the regulated community
- understand the issues of the industries we regulate. Understand that not all businesses are the same
- be transparent with scientific data and partner with academia and research organisations.

“ A genuine effort to work with people to achieve improved outcomes ”



Please keep up the listening mindset ”



Key challenges

Feedback supported our understanding of the key environmental challenges that we face as the state's primary environmental regulator, including:

- being part of the solution to tackle climate change
- supporting resource recovery systems and reducing waste
- ecologically sustainable development
- more punitive measures for environmental crime.

Extra challenges from the feedback included:

- air pollution
- protecting waterways and water bodies
- protecting biodiversity
- urban development
- contaminated land, soil and water
- hazardous chemicals
- mining, impact of fossil fuels
- renewable energy

We believe these extra challenges are already covered in the strategy's 'Degradation of the environment' and 'Protecting human health' challenges.



How we've responded to feedback

- we have added “educate” as a separate and specific element of our approach
- we've enhanced the descriptions of some of the key environmental challenges to make it clear they cover issues raised in feedback
- we've included recognition of traditional custodians' connection to Country in our principles and recognise we need to work with Aboriginal communities and organisations more to develop partnerships
- we will look at cumulative impacts from multiple sources at a catchment and place-based level
- we will continue to look for emerging risks
- we will be flexible and adapt to changing and new challenges.



“ The EPA plays a vital role in protecting the community and the environment and has its sights clearly set on ensuring not only that polluters are held to account, but also to influence business, government and the community on the right kinds of behaviours to protect and enhance the natural environment. ”

Rayne de Gruchy, EPA Board Chair



What's next

- release the new EPA Strategic Plan which will set out the vision for the EPA over the next 3 years and the outcomes we are aiming to achieve for our strategic choices
- implement the Regulatory Strategy
- develop and publish a Regulatory Policy to accompany the Regulatory Strategy
- work closely with the community, industry, local government and other government agencies to improve our regulatory approach and get better outcomes for the environment and human health
- continue to engage with the community about what we should focus on.

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