



Department of Water and
Environmental Regulation



2022-23
ANNUAL REPORT

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Prime House, 8 Davidson Terrace
Joondalup WA 6027
Locked Bag 10 Joondalup DC WA 6919

Phone: 08 6364 7000
Fax: 08 6364 7001
National Relay Service 13 36 77

wa.gov.au/dwer

© Government of Western Australia
October 2024

This work is copyright. You may download, display, print and reproduce this material in unaltered form only (retaining this notice) for your personal, non-commercial use or use within your organisation. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, all other rights are reserved. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

ISSN 22096329 (online)
FIRST 116041

Front cover: Department staff Elke Reichwaldt (middle) and Charlie Jones (far right) with Wilson Inlet Catchment Committee members Tim Gamblin, Alan Bewsher and Shaun Ossinger (left to right).

Inside cover: Students' excitement at the 'Fish Olympics' conducted by Alisia Lampropoulos at the annual Children's Gnamara Groundwater Festival.

Disclaimer

This document has been published by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Any representation, statement, opinion or advice expressed or implied in this publication is made in good faith and on the basis that the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and its employees are not liable for any damage or loss whatsoever which may occur as a result of action taken or not taken, as the case may be in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to herein. Professional advice should be obtained before applying the information contained in this document to particular circumstances.

This publication is available at our website wa.gov.au/dwer or for those with special needs it can be made available in alternative formats such as audio, large print, or Braille.

Statement of compliance

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Hon Simone McGurk MLA

Minister for Water

Hon Reece Whitby MLA

Minister for Environment;
Climate Action

In accordance with section 63 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, I hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament the annual report for the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

The annual report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006*.



Alistair Jones
Director General
7 October 2024







Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land upon which we live and work throughout Western Australia, and pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

We recognise the practice of intergenerational care for Country and its relevance to our work as water and environmental managers.

We seek to listen, learn, genuinely engage and build strong partnerships. We aim to provide sustainable opportunities for Aboriginal people within our workforce and through our business.

Working with the community, we move forward with a shared commitment to protect and conserve Country for future generations, recognising Country is a term used by Aboriginal people to describe the lands, waterways and seas to which they are intrinsically linked, and to which their wellbeing, law, place, custom, language, spiritual belief, cultural practice, material sustenance, family and identity belong.

Contents

10

Overview

Who we are	10
Our vision	11
Our mission	11
Our values	11
Our 2023–24 structure	12
Our people	14
Performance summary	15
Actual results versus budget targets	15
Summary of key effectiveness indicators	16
Summary of key efficiency indicators	17

19

Our priorities

Approvals system reform	20
Climate action	25
Biodiversity conservation	29
Protecting our water	31
Circular economy	34
Aboriginal engagement and advancement	38
Our capabilities	43
Governance	45
Stakeholder, customer and community insights	46

184

Other requirements

Other legal requirements	184
Government policy requirements	186

47

Agency performance

Outcome 1	48
Outcome 2	70
Outcome 3	78
Outcome 4	86
Outcome 5	97
Outcome 6	102

194

Appendices

Appendix A: Legislation	194
Appendix B: Shortened forms	197
Appendix C: References	197
Contact us	198
Head office	198
Regional offices	198
Feedback form	199

105

Disclosures

Auditor General independent auditor's report	106
Certification of financial statements	108
Statement of comprehensive income	109
Statement of financial position	110
Statement of changes in equity	111
Statement of cash flows	112
Administered schedules	113
Notes to the financial statements	114
Certification of key performance indicators	160
Outcome-based management framework	161
Key effectiveness indicators	163
Key efficiency indicators	170



Agency performance

Outcome-based management framework

Outcome 1 48

Service 1 – Water information and advice.49

Water measurement and monitoring	49
River gauging assets	49
Groundwater monitoring network	50
Water and environment planning advice.	50
Water information	51
Drainage planning and floodplain modelling	51

Service 2 – Water planning, allocation and optimisation52

Water allocation plans.	52
Water investigations	56
Drinking water source protection	56
Water supply planning	57
Waterwise	58
Be Groundwater Wise.	60
Drainage for liveability	60
Rural water planning	61
Rivers and estuaries	63
Healthy Rivers program.	64

Service 3 – Water regulation, licensing and industry governance66

Water licensing	66
Water Online.	67
Water compliance and enforcement	67
Garden bore watering restrictions.	68
Water services	68
Managing public water supply	69
Water fees	69
Water policy	69

Outcome 2 70

Service 4 – Environmental regulation71

Industry regulation.	71
Native vegetation regulation.	71
Environmental compliance and enforcement.	72
Promoting and monitoring compliance.	73
Controlled waste	74
Environment Watch	74
Responding to non-compliance	74
Assurance reform	75
Environmental noise.	75
Contaminated sites	75
Air quality.	76
Particle sensors deployed to the regions	77
High-resolution datasets to assess urban heat island effect in Perth	77
Air quality technical advice	77

Outcome 3 78

Service 5 – Environmental and water policy79

EP Act amendments	79
Native vegetation policy	80
Reform of environmental offsets	80
Nature programs	80
Climate	81
Advisory groups	84

Outcome 4 86

Service 6 – Waste strategies.87

Strategies and plans.	87
Waste levy and funding.	89
Waste data reporting and plans	89
Waste projects	90
Waste priorities.	92

Outcome 5 97

Service 7 – Environmental impact assessment services to the EPA98

Development proposals	98
Planning schemes and scheme amendments	98
Consultation.	100

Service 8 – Environmental management services to the EPA100

Regional-scale environmental offsets public advice	100
Greenhouse gas guidance	101
Stakeholder Reference Group	101

Outcome 6 102

Service 9 – Compliance monitoring services to the Minister for Environment103

Ministerial Statements	103
Annual compliance fees	103



Outcome 1

Western Australia's growth and development is supported by the sustainable management of water resources for the long-term benefit of the state

Service 1 – Water information and advice

Water measurement and monitoring

Our statewide hydrological data measurement and monitoring network is critical for water supply and allocation planning regimes, water licensing and regulation decisions, water resource development options, water quality improvement planning and floodplain management advice. Our river level data is the backbone of the state emergency flood warning service.

The network is a combination of about 2,800 groundwater monitoring bores, 280 river gauging stations, 170 meteorological sites and 20 continuous water quality monitoring buoys and installations.

This year we completed a \$3.52 million upgrade to our streamflow, meteorological and water quality site Internet Protocol (IP) telemetry systems, required because of the closure of the Globalstar satellite network in 2023 and the Telstra 3G mobile network in 2024.

The new systems use contemporary Narrowband Internet of Things mobile or Inmarsat geostationary satellite and Iridium Low Earth Orbit satellite communication networks. It provides more on-site data, remote monitoring of equipment health and analysis of river flow rates.

This year we completed a \$3.52 million upgrade to our streamflow, meteorological and water quality site Internet Protocol (IP) telemetry systems, required because of the closure of the Globalstar satellite network in 2023 and the Telstra 3G mobile network in 2024.



River gauging assets

The Replace and Maintain River Gauging Stations capital asset investment program is maintaining and upgrading our surface water and meteorological assets, and enables us to respond to altered hydrological conditions.

A review of the Fitzroy River catchment monitoring infrastructure and systems across the network was completed following the record-breaking 2022–23 flood which caused significant damage to infrastructure and communities in the Fitzroy Valley. It highlighted the need for innovation in creating robust and reliable remote gauging, with the floodwaters destroying two critical gauges and exceeding the capacity of others.

Our hydrographers responded by undertaking temporary repairs to key sites and building an entirely new gauge upstream of Fitzroy Crossing in collaboration with Main Roads Western Australia to provide the essential data needed to enable the new bridge construction. A permanent, state-of-the-art radar river gauge was established on the new bridge in June 2024.

Groundwater monitoring network

We are modernising the way we collect and provide groundwater monitoring data by installing mobile and satellite network telemetry systems to 1,400 of the highest-priority bores across Western Australia.

Data will be freely available for our scientists and planners, along with the community, to view and download via an update to our [Water Information Reporting](#) (WIR) portal.

We manage more than 6,700 groundwater monitoring bores worth about \$166 million, which we oversee under the Replace and Maintain Monitoring Bores program, the largest in our Asset Investment Program. This program manages contracts to drill and construct monitoring bores up to 1,000 m deep and ensures our infrastructure is suitable for gathering accurate groundwater data. In 2023–24 we invested about \$2.5 million, drilling nearly 3,000 m in total to replace eight deep monitoring wells, and we conducted more than 2,000 maintenance visits to bores across the state.

We plan to invest more than \$4 million annually over the next decade, continuing to establish and maintain crucial groundwater monitoring infrastructure. The Replace and Maintain Monitoring Bores program will focus on areas in the Mid West and South West where water demand is high.

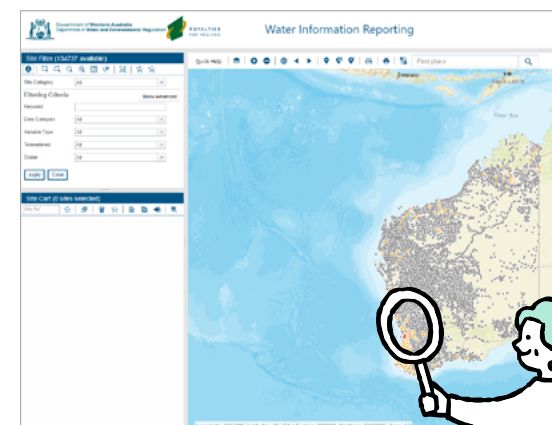
Water and environment planning advice

The department provides advice to local governments and land planning agencies on water and environmental regulation and water resource management in urban areas, to protect our natural systems and support sustainable development. This role extends to pre-emptively scoping regulatory processes under Part V of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) and *Contaminated Sites Act 2003* (Contaminated Sites Act) to ensure development proponents are informed of other legislative requirements.

In 2023–24 we assessed and responded to 2,636 requests for water and environment advice. Of these:

- 1,531 requests were from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
- 707 requests were from LGAs
- 128 requests were from DEMIRS
- 55 requests were from the EPA
- 215 requests were from other stakeholders, including other State Government agencies and utilities, and industry.

This also included advice on 133 water management reports associated with land planning.



Water Information Reporting portal

Water information

Our WIR portal provides instant access to more than 150,000 water monitoring sites. The 2023–24 year was slightly down on last year, with 8,160 requests for water information and an average turnaround time of less than five minutes. Analysis of data use shows most of these requests relate to environmental assessment, research and investigation.

Drainage planning and floodplain modelling

We produce catchment-scale flood models for priority development areas and major state projects, and deliver guidance on stormwater and shallow groundwater management.

We also provide strategic flood risk management and land capability advice for development areas identified in the Western Australian Planning Commission's Perth and Peel @ 3.5 million frameworks. A total of 107 enquiries were resolved, with advice provided to members of the public, industry and government on water resources and flood risk management and modelling as part of the land planning process.

Requests for floodplain development advice remain strong. Over the past 12 months we provided more than 830 responses to support decision-making and help the community understand flood risk.

Water Information Reporting data use

Purpose	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Environmental assessment	2,467	2,547	3,051	2,713
Research and investigation	1,444	2,242	2,622	2,880
Other	393	364	435	462
Mining and exploration	495	573	653	644
Agriculture	286	269	430	316
Domestic supply	172	194	153	134
Water source protection	216	292	551	493
Infrastructure	350	335	382	384
Property development/land use planning	187	223	249	16
Industry and commerce	92	78	99	91
Recreation	81	29	32	27

We also used remote sensing and field work to update our floodplain mapping datasets to include data from the February 2024 flood mapping of the Fortescue River at Newman.



Western Australia floodplain mapping site

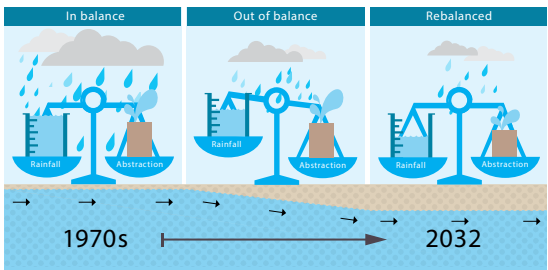
we provided more than 830 responses to support decision-making and help the community understand flood risk.



Service 2 – Water planning, allocation and optimisation

Water allocation plans

Water allocation plans remain the department’s key water policy documents and essential tools in the response to climate change. Using the latest science and water data, these plans establish how much water is available from rivers and aquifers in a designated area, how much is set aside for the environment and public drinking supply, and how much can be licensed sustainably to businesses and individuals.



The *Gngangara groundwater allocation plan* aims to rebalance the amount of groundwater we take from the system

► Gngangara

The Gngangara groundwater system is Perth’s largest natural water source for drinking water and private supply, and it supports our wetlands, bushland and large urban trees. Monitoring data shows that average groundwater levels in the Superficial aquifer of the Gngangara groundwater system dropped to the lowest level in eight years in autumn 2024.

The [Gngangara groundwater allocation plan](#) was launched in June 2022 and continues to be implemented. Its aim to rebalance the amount of water we take from the Gngangara groundwater system will be achieved by Water Corporation reducing its baseline abstraction by 27 per cent and most other licensed groundwater users reducing their take by 10 per cent (from 1 July 2028).



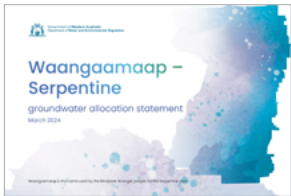
Learn more about the *Gngangara groundwater allocation plan* on [YouTube](#)

All 16 metropolitan councils in the plan area are part of the Waterwise Councils Program, a joint initiative of Water Corporation and the department, to help improve the way they use water and build waterwise communities.

Increases to the Gngangara Horticulture Water Use Efficiency Grants Program were announced in May 2024, with the size of grants doubled for horticulture and viticulture growers who rely on the Gngangara groundwater system. Up to \$100,000 is now available to implement water use efficiency infrastructure and soil amelioration activities.

► Waangaamaap – Serpentine

The [Waangaamaap – Serpentine groundwater allocation statement](#) was released in March 2024. It describes our review of allocation limits in the Serpentine groundwater area and the Keysbrook subarea of the Stakehill groundwater area in the context of past and projected changes in rainfall caused by climate change.



The Waangaamaap – Serpentine groundwater statement area is about 30 km south of Boorloo (Perth) and covers 430 km². Groundwater in the area provides base flow for streams and rivers, including the Waangaamaap Bilya (Serpentine River).

Most of the licensed groundwater use in the area is for agricultural purposes and irrigation of parks, ovals and other public open spaces by developers and local governments. Groundwater is also used for small-scale stock and domestic and garden bore uses that may be exempt from licensing.

The statement set new allocation limits that will improve the security of supply of existing groundwater users over the coming decade and reduce the risk of impacts to groundwater-dependent ecosystems and cultural values from over-abstraction.

Information considered in the review included technical studies completed as part of the Peel Integrated Water Initiative, which found climate change had already affected the availability of surface and groundwater resources in the area.

► Gingin

The [Gingin groundwater and surface water allocation plans: 2024 evaluation statement](#) was released in June 2024. It is the first published assessment of the 2015 [Gingin groundwater allocation plan](#) and the second for the 2011 [Gingin surface water allocation plan](#).



The evaluation found several ongoing risks to groundwater and surface water resources in the southern part of the region where climate change and abstraction has led to long-term declines in groundwater levels and streamflow.

Updated management arrangements were established in the evaluation statement, which will be implemented while a new combined (groundwater and surface water) allocation plan is developed for the area.

To help prevent further declines and to reduce the risk of impacts on water users and the environment, the evaluation:

- caps the allocation limits of surficial aquifer resources in the Gingin groundwater plan area at current licensed entitlements
- updates the Gingin groundwater allocation plan's licensing and trading policy for

Gingin watercourses and the trading rules for the Cowalla groundwater subarea

- includes revised low-flow thresholds for Gingin Brook and Lennard Brook.

These are important interim steps while a new combined Gingin water allocation plan is developed.

► Warren-Donnelly

The Warren-Donnelly area is one of Australia's premier agricultural regions that supports diverse businesses and communities. The region's pristine environment and food production attracts thousands of tourists every year.



In October 2023 we released the [Warren-Donnelly surface water allocation plan: 2023 evaluation statement and future planning](#), which outlines that the current water allocation plan is still appropriate to support the region's horticultural industry and natural environments.

However, under a drying climate, the available water in this region is expected to reduce. We have begun developing a new Warren-Donnelly surface water allocation plan.



Maria Melero Lopez, Hydrogeologist,
pre-drilling site preparation, Karajarri
Indigenous Protected Area, La Grange

► Fitzroy and Derby

In October 2023 the State Government released key policy positions that will form the basis for [Fitzroy water allocation planning](#), as part of its ongoing commitment to protecting the Fitzroy River while supporting economic development. The [Water allocation planning in the Fitzroy – Policy position paper](#) includes 10 key policy positions developed following extensive consultation and scientific studies.

We also published [five technical reports](#) informed by scientific studies, which will guide future water allocation planning.

Following thorough feedback on [Derby water allocation planning](#) and ongoing conversations

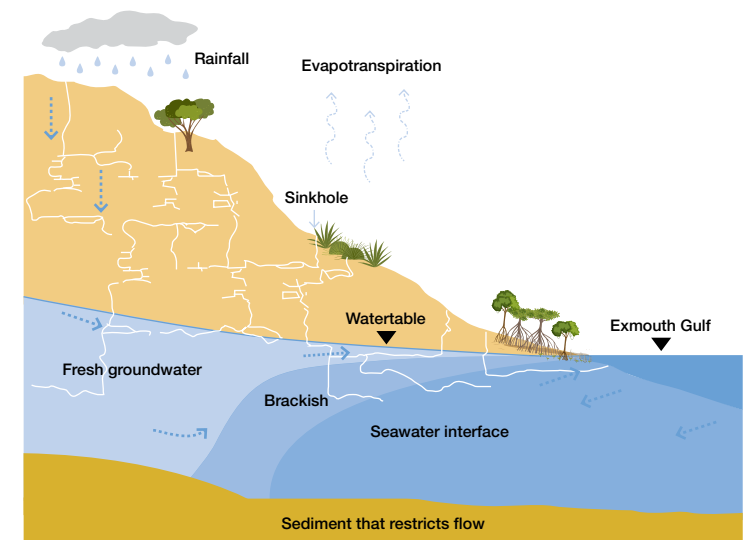
with Traditional Owners, a revised draft Derby plan will be released together with a future draft Fitzroy water allocation plan for further public comment.

► Exmouth

The department is reviewing water allocation limits for the Exmouth groundwater subareas of the North West Cape. The [Exmouth groundwater allocation planning](#) will help inform the work of the Minister for Environment's [Exmouth Gulf Taskforce](#) in providing recommendations on the conservation and enhancement of the key values of the Gulf and its surrounds.

Through the Taskforce we are consulting with the Nganhurra Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation to improve our understanding of the Cape Range subterranean waterways and help identify key groundwater-dependent ecological, cultural and social values.

Our review will also guide [Water Corporation's future water source planning](#) for Exmouth town's drinking water supply. We are actively working with Water Corporation as it develops options to meet drinking water supply demands for Exmouth, with a focus on options that are sustainable and consider future climate.



A conceptual cross-section of the Cape Range limestone groundwater system of the Exmouth peninsula, from Cape Range east to the Exmouth Gulf

Water investigations

The State Groundwater Investigations Program undertakes targeted groundwater investigations to ensure government and industry have timely and accurate knowledge of water resources suitable for drinking, agriculture, horticulture, mining and industry. In 2023–24 it spent \$3.75 million of capital funding supporting 13 active groundwater investigation projects.

The department receives capital funding to develop numerical models used to support water management, planning, licensing and measurement activities.

Water investigations highlights

Swan Valley program

Completion of drilling, resulting in 19 monitoring bores installed at 12 sites, with a total of 4,417 m drilled in the City of Swan, about 15 km north-east of the Perth CBD.

Data collected from the monitoring of these bores will assist with future resource management decisions.

Recharge Estimation Collaboration project

Development of a high-quality network for monitoring groundwater recharge on the Swan Coastal Plain. The project also investigated methods to estimate and predict recharge under a range of future climate conditions. We will use the findings to increase the reliability of recharge estimates, enabling us to make more informed decisions about water management.

Highlights from the 2023–24 Water Modelling Program include:

- finalising a regional groundwater model for Myalup, which predicts saltwater movement under various scenarios
- completing the Perth Regional Aquifer Modelling System (PRAMS 3.6) using supercomputing to improve planning for Perth and Gnangara
- finalising a water quality model for the Nullaki (Wilson Inlet) catchment, aiding decisions on artificial sandbar breaches.

Drinking water source protection

To support Western Australia's growth and development, the department protects public drinking water source areas using the Australian drinking water guidelines. Our efforts focus on legislative and policy frameworks to maintain the integrity of these water sources.



Public drinking water source area [mapping tool](#)

Water supply planning

During 2023–24 we completed an assessment of groundwater available for urban and industry development in Perth and Peel, which estimated the volume of water needed to irrigate new public open space and for industrial areas planned in the Perth and Peel @ 3.5 million frameworks. The assessment identified the processes to secure each water supply option at the appropriate stage of land use planning and will be used to inform regional licensing and planning advice.

Our regional strategy program in 2023–24 included an evaluation of the *Great Southern regional water supply strategy* published by the former Department of Water in 2014. The evaluation found that most of the actions from the 2014 strategy are progressed or completed, including:

- groundwater investigations in the Albany hinterlands area
- source development planning for potable schemes
- Waterwise programs
- upgrades to community and emergency water supply infrastructure.



Waterwise



The Waterwise program conserves our water resources and supports urban greening, biodiversity, tree canopy and urban cooling to create climate-resilient communities.



The second Waterwise action plan, [Kep Katitjin – Gabi Kaadadjan Waterwise Perth action plan 2](#), was launched in 2022. It is led by the department and has 41 actions across 11 state agencies:

- the departments of Communities; Finance; Planning, Lands and Heritage; Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries; Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; Primary Industries and Regional Development; Education
- DevelopmentWA
- METRONET
- Water Corporation.

The program achievements since the launch of the first Waterwise action plan in 2019 are listed on the next page.

These efforts were recognised in November 2023 when the first action plan, *Waterwise Perth Action Plan 2019*, won the Australian Water Association WA Award for Organisational Excellence, and in May 2024 when it won the national award from the same body.

The third Waterwise action plan is in development and expected to be launched in 2024–25.



The *Waterwise Perth Action Plan 2019* received the Organisational Excellence Award at the state and national Australian Water Association Awards



Designer Darryl Bellotti



Listen to Darryl's story behind the artwork





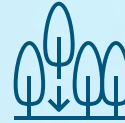
295,400 waterwise plantings

creating biodiversity and cooling our suburbs



24 feasibility studies

completed to identify appropriate water supplies for urban green space in areas with limited or no groundwater availability



10,110 trees planted

reducing urban heat in our suburbs



38 Water Corporation assets

and surrounding land transformed into neighbourhood green spaces, such as living streams, wetlands, community gardens, nature corridors or parkland



100% Boorloo and Bindjareb councils

endorsed as Waterwise and 88% recognised as Gold Waterwise Councils; 9 councils have achieved Platinum status

ACHIEVEMENTS 2019 – 2024

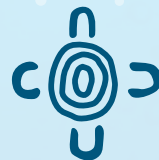


**WATER
WISE
PERTH**
Action Plan



152,000 students

participated in the Waterwise Schools program



9 strategic documents/projects

influenced as partner agencies proactively incorporate Aboriginal values and knowledge into their actions



47 community partnerships

to raise awareness of water's importance and strengthen community connection to local water stories and environment



water saved

- ▶ **492 million litres** saved by retrofitting social housing with water-efficient fixtures
- ▶ **1,024 million litres** saved through programs to help households adapt to climate change
- ▶ **22,770 million litres** saved by business and industry by improving their water use practices



This plan includes

41 actions being delivered

through the collaborative efforts of 11 agencies that are **actively addressing the impacts of climate change** through their actions



Be Groundwater Wise

Our Be Groundwater Wise behavioural change campaign is part of the Waterwise program. It shows how far we have come as a community and the inroads we have made in conserving groundwater resources.

In 2023–24 our Perth spring and autumn awareness campaigns gained more than 7 million online impressions, reaching more than 1.5 million users across Facebook and Instagram.



Watch Sabrina Hahn discuss our precious groundwater on [YouTube](#)

Drainage for liveability

The [Drainage for Liveability program](#) is a joint initiative with Water Corporation that creates more sustainable, productive, resilient and liveable – that is, waterwise – communities. Working with interested community groups, local government and the development industry, we are improving stormwater drains and basins to increase the social and environmental value of these spaces in our urban environment.

We seek to provide advice, in consultation with Water Corporation, to stakeholders and develop agreed recommendations for technical and policy-related aspects of drainage management. The Drainage for Liveability guidance note series provides an integrated approach to drainage management, focusing on opportunities to maximise community and environmental benefits and manage risks from flooding and inundation.



Rural water planning

Ensuring rural communities are resilient to climate change remains a major priority. Our suite of programs is focused on providing secure and reliable emergency non-potable off-farm supplies for regional townscapes and emergency firefighting in the dryland agricultural region of Western Australia.

We provide assistance through the following programs.

► Community Water Supplies Partnership program

The CWSP program provides grants of up to \$100,000 to local governments or community groups for projects that improve non-potable water supplies in dryland agricultural areas that receive less than 600 mm average annual rainfall, and for use in times of emergency for stock and firefighting.

The CWSP program is supported by \$6.2 million in funding over four years by the Australian Government's National Water Grid Fund and the State Government.

In May 2024, the State Government provided \$1.5 million in additional funding to extend the CWSP program to the South West and Great Southern to help more communities manage the impacts of the dry conditions in 2023 and the summer of 2024.

The State Government approved 18 CWSP grants in 2023–24, totalling \$1,187,449 in funding for regional communities. Contributions from LGAs amounted to \$887,309 for total funding of \$2,074,758.

Esperance Community Water Supplies Partnership program

The Esperance CWSP program was a partnership project between the department, Shire of Esperance, South East Premium Wheat Growers Association and Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). The project lined two small, farm-scale water catchments with tarps. This has led to increased run-off into dams, resulting in the storage of significantly more water.

It was estimated that the catchments lined with tarps would have a run-off efficiency of 98 per cent and be able to capture more than 3 megalitres of water per year at each catchment site. The project also included sourcing and repurposing used CBH tarps, leading to waste minimisation and a reduced total project cost.



► Strategic and Agricultural Area dams

This program upgraded and developed a network of strategic community water supplies across dryland agricultural areas. The aim was to provide emergency water supplies for farmers and firefighting and to build water security for rural communities and towns to combat climate change. The \$7.3 million program was supported by joint funding from the State Government and the Australian Government's National Water Grid Fund and was completed in June 2024.



► Strategic Community Water Supply plans

Strategic Community Water Supply (SCWS) plans provide information for local governments and farmers on the location of SCWS sites and how to access non-potable water for emergency stock watering and firefighting purposes. This includes details on what other facilities or water supplies are available at each site. The SCWS site supplies are for emergency use in times when low rainfall causes on-farm supplies to become depleted and farmers need to travel to access water for livestock and essential farming purposes. Ten SCWS plans were finalised in 2023–24.



► Water deficiency declarations

Water deficiency declarations are implemented by the State Government during dry periods in our agricultural regions to address emergency animal welfare needs. Under a declaration, the State Government will provide water for livestock needs at a central storage point, within a 40 km radius of the farms impacted.

During the year, there were two water deficiencies declared in the Shire of Esperance, at Salmon Gums and Grass Patch. Water is still being carted to these sites.

Rivers and estuaries

► Healthy Estuaries WA

Our work to improve the health of estuaries across south-west Western Australia continues through [Healthy Estuaries WA](#), [Revitalising Geopraphe Waterways](#) and the [Bindjareb Djiilba \(Peel-Harvey estuary\) Protection Plan](#). These programs work in seven priority estuaries and their catchments: the Peel-Harvey estuary, Leschenault Estuary, Vasse-Geopraphe waterways, Hardy Inlet, Wilson Inlet, Torbay Inlet and Oyster Harbour. We monitor their water quality regularly at 176 locations.

In 2023–24 we completed seagrass surveys of Wilson Inlet, Hardy Inlet and Leschenault Estuary, taking 670 observations. Along with catchment and estuary numerical modelling and ecological expertise, this monitoring effort



Learn about farmer Zoe Johnson's fencing and revegetation project on [YouTube](#)

directly informs management actions that reduce nutrient inputs to our waterways.

Innovative trials were held near Mandurah to test a phosphorus-binding clay (HT-clay). The clay binds phosphorus from the water, making it unavailable for algae growth. The trials required the production of 35 tonnes of clay – the largest amount of HT-clay ever produced. In some cases, testing showed a 96 per cent decrease in phosphorus.

Farmers have fenced 160 km of waterways and revegetated 82 ha since the program launched in 2020, preventing nutrients and organic matter from livestock entering waterways.

The Healthy Estuaries WA fertiliser management program, part of the Sustainable Agriculture Strategy, was announced in April as a finalist in the Premier's Science Awards: Science Engagement Initiative of the Year 2023.

A record 257 farms participated in this year's annual fertiliser management program. It is estimated the farms could collectively reduce



Healthy Estuaries WA team
completed seagrass surveys, taking
670 observations

the amount of phosphorus applied to their farms by 668,000 kg while saving a total of \$3,084,000 if they applied fertiliser based on their soil test results.

There has been an estimated 46 per cent reduction in the amount of phosphorus (a nutrient of major concern) applied on participating farms since 2020.



Healthy Rivers program

Our [Healthy Rivers program](#) monitors almost 200 river and stream sites across south-west Western Australia and undertakes additional assessments as required. This work helps us to identify the ecosystem values that need protection, monitor threats and impacts, and evaluate ecosystem responses.

In 2023–24 the Healthy Rivers team undertook assessments at 69 sites across the south-west from Gingin Brook in the north, through the Avon River and down to the Goodga River east of Albany.



Watch Kelli O'Neill share her passion for healthy rivers on [Facebook](#)

► Fish kill response

The department's officers are part of the state's integrated response to fish deaths in Western Australian waters, working cooperatively with DPIRD, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), the Department of Health and local governments. We are the lead response agency for inland waters, which includes collection and analysis of water, phytoplankton and fish samples, gathering information from the public, and notifying the community about causes and any public safety risks.

In 2023–24 we responded to 25 fish kill reports within inland waters and supported DPIRD with several other events recorded in marine waters.

Reporting a fish kill

If you see a fish kill, please report it immediately to:

- the DPIRD Fisheries [FishWatch hotline](#) 1800 815 507 (24 hour service)
- your nearest [Department of Water and Environmental Regulation](#) or [DPIRD](#) office
- within the Swan Canning Riverpark, contact [DBCA](#) on 9278 0900 or after hours on 9278 0981

For your safety please do not touch dead or dying fish, and avoid contact with the water in the area until our officers can assess the risk. This includes not using fish in the area of a fish kill event as bait, in case there is risk of transferring disease or contaminants.

Most fish deaths were attributed to poor water quality occurring through the unprecedented dry season, typically because of low dissolved oxygen. Dry season rainfall events, which wash organic material and nutrients into systems and stir up sediments, were a common trigger of the recorded fish kills.

► Bindjareb Djlba (Peel-Harvey estuary) Protection Plan

The [Bindjareb Djlba \(Peel-Harvey estuary\) Protection Plan](#) is in its third year of implementation, with strong positive engagement from key stakeholders and funding support from a State Government election commitment. The Policy and Planning Committee – co-chaired by Hon David Templeman MLA, Member for Mandurah, and Lisa Munday MLA, Member for Dawesville – meets regularly to progress priority actions to protect the estuary.

The Protection Plan supports a partnership with PHCC to expand the impact of fertiliser management and river restoration activities implemented through Healthy Estuaries WA. It also supports partnerships with local Aboriginal corporations to increase Traditional Owner involvement through Bindjareb-led yarning circles and cultural mapping.



Environmental Officers
Kelli O'Neill and
Gina Marino


Service 3 – Water regulation, licensing and industry governance

Water licensing

Administering the sustainable and equitable take of water through the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* ensures our water resources are protected. Water licences issued by the department set the volume of water that can be taken, what water resource it can be taken from, where it can be used and for what purpose.

As at 30 June 2024, we managed 12,634 water licences across 773 groundwater and 427 surface water resources. These licences authorise the taking of 4,306 gigalitres (GL) of water – 3,302 GL from groundwater resources and 1,004 GL from surface water resources.

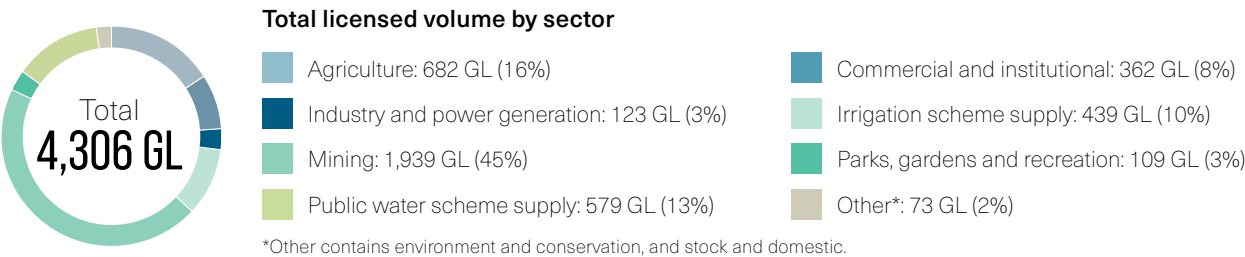
In certain areas, the construction of water-use infrastructure including bores and dams, and the disturbance or interference of the beds and banks of watercourses, are also subject to authorisations. As at 30 June 2024, there were 916 licences to construct and alter groundwater wells and 446 permits to interfere with beds and banks granted across the state.

 **916**
licences to
construct and alter
groundwater wells

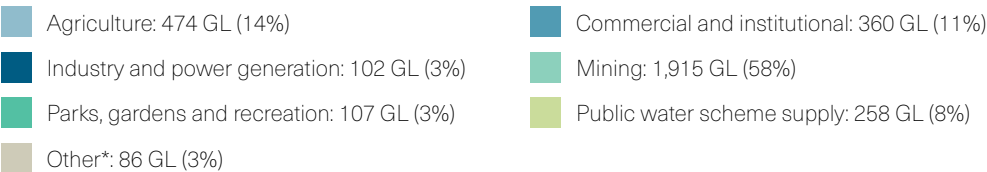
 **446**
permits to
interfere with
beds and banks

Western Australia's water users by sector (allocated volume)

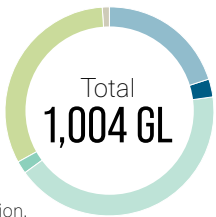
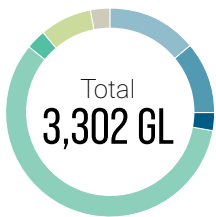
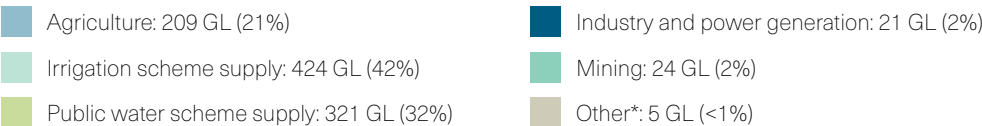
Please note: The sector volumes (both individual and totalled) in each of these charts have been subject to rounding.



Groundwater licensed volume by sector



Surface water licensed volume by sector



In 2023–24 the water licensing targets for average application processing times (65 days low risk, 75 days medium risk and 95 days high risk) were met for the low- and high-risk licence applications, and the timeframe was exceeded for medium-risk licence applications. The average assessment timeliness performances for low-, medium- and high-risk water licence applications were 58 days, 84 days and 92 days, respectively.

As at 30 June 2024, there were 543 water licence applications in backlog, which is a 49 per cent increase on the previous year. The number of licence applications received across 2023–24 was significantly higher than in previous years, which has contributed to the backlog growth.

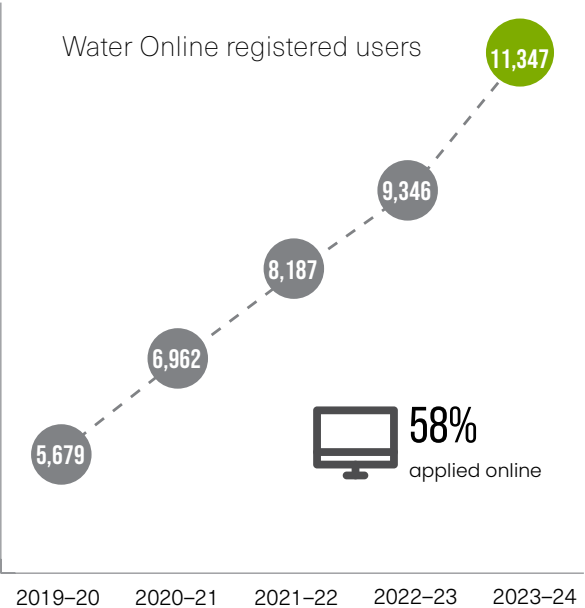
These increases reflect the growing complexity of water resource management in a changing climate where water resources are in high demand. We are enhancing the capacity and capability of regulatory teams in our Statewide Delivery directorate with the aim of stabilising and improving assessment timeframes.

We have also implemented a statewide water licensing backlog program, which includes longer-term approaches to maintaining the backlog within a target threshold of fewer than 350 applications.

Water Online

[Water Online](#) is one of our pioneer digital systems and remains a highly successful one-stop portal for water licensing. It allows water users to lodge water licence and permit applications, and licensees and permit holders to submit reports and meter readings.

The percentage of portal users continues to rise. In 2023–24, 58 per cent of applications were submitted online, with 2,021 new users registering for a total of 11,347 users. Water Online will be transitioned into Environment Online in 2024–25 as part of the integration and improvement in online services.



Water compliance and enforcement

As at 30 June 2024, 5,404 water licences representing 4,181 GL of water were subject to metering and alternative measurement requirements under the Rights in Water and Irrigation Regulations 2000.

5,404
water licences

Our regulatory work includes educational and behavioural support as well as compliance and enforcement activities that ensure legal requirements are being followed. When necessary, formal action is taken for breaches of these requirements.


Support mechanisms are made available to licensees which promote self-regulation of the terms and conditions of water licences. For example, by using Water Online, licensees can receive reminder notices of due dates for report submissions and input meter details to keep track of monthly and annual water use.

Compliance monitoring consists of on-site visits and remote monitoring activities. In 2023–24 we undertook 151 compliance inspections and water meter audits, conducted 864 desktop water use surveys and completed 324 reviews of submitted compliance reports. We also processed 2,052 abstraction volume submissions and meter reading submissions.

864
desktop water use surveys

324
reviews of reports

As an outcome of these monitoring activities, 1,357 incident reviews and investigations were undertaken, and we responded to 130 confirmed incidents of non-compliance with a combination of statutory and non-statutory enforcement actions. We issued 58 letters of education, 51 warning notices and 17 infringement notices, and gave four statutory directions.

 **1,357**
incident reviews and investigations

 **58**
letters of education

 **51**
warning notices

 **17**
infringement notices


Garden bore watering restrictions

Most garden bores in Western Australia are not licensed but are subject to sprinkler restrictions under the Water Agencies (Water Use) By-laws 2010. The department, in partnership with Water Corporation, regulates domestic garden bore sprinkler restrictions.

In Perth and Mandurah, domestic garden bore sprinkler restrictions align with scheme water users, allowing watering on two rostered days a week. Elsewhere in the state, garden bore owners can water once a day between 6pm and 9am.

For alleged garden bore watering restriction offences during the past financial year, the department issued 291 warning notices and 337 infringements.

 **291**
warning notices

 **337**
infringement notices



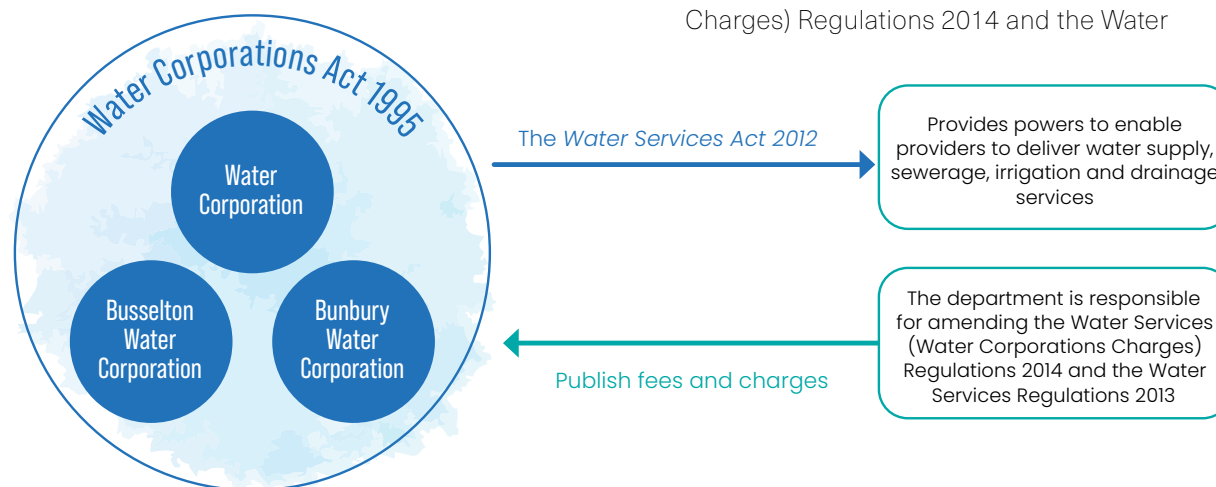
Water services

State Government-owned water utilities Water Corporation, Busselton Water Corporation and Bunbury Water Corporation (Aqwest) are established under the *Water Corporations Act 1995*.

The *Water Services Act 2012* provides powers to enable licensed service providers including the water corporations to deliver water supply, sewerage, irrigation and drainage services, including establishing areas of operation.

There are 18 other licensed water service providers in Western Australia, comprising local governments, irrigation cooperatives, mining companies, developers and the Rottnest Island Authority.

The Water Services (Water Corporations Charges) Regulations 2014 and the Water



Services Regulations 2013 are amended annually to publish customer fees and charges for Aqwest, Busselton Water and Water Corporation. The department makes the amendments in consultation with the corporations, to take effect in the following financial year.

We continue to work with Water Corporation as required to support the improvement of water services to regional Aboriginal communities. This includes support in licensing, permits and public drinking water source protection.

Managing public water supply

The department manages surface water and groundwater used by the State Government's water corporations for public water supply through water licences issued under the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914*.

We continue to work with Water Corporation and other providers to ensure abstraction is sustainable and protects the health and integrity of the resource. The work on abstraction to support resource health has been particularly active and ongoing for the Gngangara groundwater resource.

We also ensure that sources of drinking water are protected from potential contamination risks through the Water Source Protection program.

We are working with Water Corporation on planning for Exmouth and Albany's next drinking water sources and Perth's next major water source, the Alkimos seawater desalination plant. From 2028, this plant will supply 50 billion litres of clean, safe drinking water to millions of Western Australians each year. During 2023–24 we also worked with Water Corporation on source development planning for Esperance and the Warren-Blackwood regional water supply scheme, and with Busselton Water for the Busselton scheme.

Water fees

Fees for water licence and permit applications have been in place for the mining and public water supply sectors since 2018. In 2023–24, we spent \$17,471,511 on the assessment of all water licence and permit applications and collected \$1,377,576 in fees from 64 licensees for 516 application assessments.

Water policy

In December 2023, the Minister for Water announced State Government plans for a new Water Resource Management Bill would not proceed, following feedback from water users and stakeholders.

The plan was to consolidate six pieces of legislation governing Western Australia's water resources management system to simplify water management; however, feedback indicated that many of the existing and long-standing arrangements remain suitable.

To ensure community needs are met, priority will be given to supporting timely processing of licence applications and investigations.

At a national level, the department has been working with the Australian Government and other jurisdictions to develop a new National Water Agreement to replace the existing National Water Initiative. The new agreement is being developed to provide a nationally consistent framework for water reform and policy.





Outcome 2

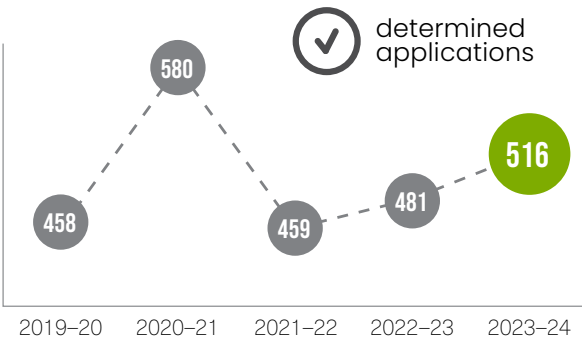
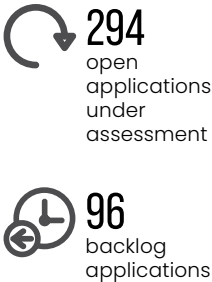
Emissions, discharges and clearing of native vegetation are effectively regulated to avoid unacceptable risks to public health and the environment

Service 4 – Environmental regulation

Industry regulation

In 2023–24 the department received 637 applications for licences, works approvals and amendments, similar to the previous year (630). Growth in the state's mining, oil and gas, industrial, renewable, intensive agriculture, and food and beverage sectors continued to drive this high application workload, a trend also observed across the three preceding financial years.

The number of applications determined this year (516) also rose compared with the previous year (481). Open applications under assessment remained steady, with 294 as at 30 June 2024, the same as last year. Despite the 7.3 per cent increase in the number of applications determined this year, backlog applications increased to 96 in 2023–24, up 20 since the same time last year.



The average processing timeframe for the year was 78 working days, the same as last year. Opportunities to improve performance are being developed through the approvals system reform, such as parallel processing of multiple approvals and opportunities for deemed decision-making.

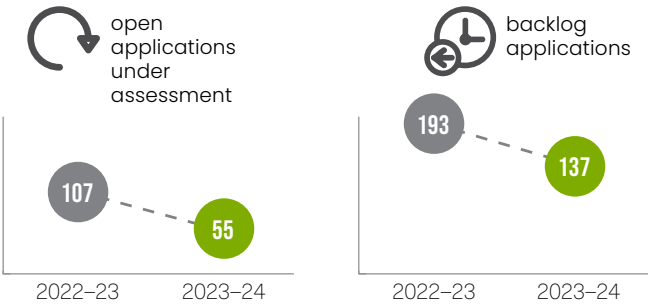


Native vegetation regulation

► Clearing permits

The department received 226 native vegetation clearing permit applications in 2023–24, about 13 per cent fewer than in 2022–23. Through intensive focus on backlog applications, we reduced the number of open backlog applications from 107 at the end of last year to 55 as at 30 June 2024 – a 49 per cent reduction. The total number of open applications reduced to 137, down from 193 last year.

As many of the finalised backlog applications had been with the department for a protracted period, the average number of working days



taken to make a decision increased to 119 days, up from 71 days in 2022–23. The percentage of applications decided within a timeframe of 60 working days also reduced to 41 per cent in 2023–24, down from 53 per cent in 2022–23. We expect improved timeliness of decisions in 2024–25 now that many protracted backlog applications have been finalised.

Clearing permit applications in the South West, Perth-Peel and Wheatbelt regions made up 71 per cent of decisions made in 2023–24. Applications in these regions fall within the intensive land use zone, where historic clearing has been extensive, resulting in increasingly complex assessments because of the high environmental value of remnant vegetation. The department is placing greater scrutiny on the need for clearing and the types of environmental offsets proposed for clearing permit applications in these areas, in consideration of new and improved science and ongoing change in the environmental context.

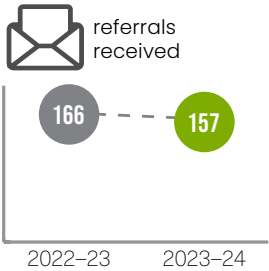
To assist in navigating these complexities, this year the department updated its clearing permit application form to encourage applicants with proposals on the Swan Coastal Plain or in the Wheatbelt to meet with the

department before submitting an application and identify issues and solutions early.

The average time applications are in ‘stop the clock’ has again increased, up from an average of 110 business days in 2022–23 to 138 in 2023–24. This reflects the need for applicants to spend additional time completing information gaps in their applications, such as further detail on avoidance, minimisation and mitigation measures, conducting biological surveys and identifying suitable environmental offsets.

► Clearing referrals

Stakeholders continue to make use of the clearing referral process, introduced in 2021–22, with 157 referrals received this year. This is a slight reduction from the previous year (166). Clearing referrals now make up 41 per cent of all requests for clearing approvals submitted to the department under Part V of the EP Act.



Performance outcomes for the clearing referrals process are consistent with its function as a streamlined approval pathway for clearing with very low environmental impacts. On average, the department finalised clearing referrals within 23 working days this year. In 2023–24, 54 referrals were determined to not require a clearing permit for the proposed clearing, equating to cumulative total proposed clearing of about 11.40 ha.

Environmental compliance and enforcement

The department has wide-ranging statutory and regulatory responsibilities directed at achieving improved outcomes for public health, the environment and our water resources. We are committed to being a responsive and credible regulator by consistently applying and enforcing the legislation we administer. We use a range of regulatory tools to promote, monitor and enforce compliance and respond to breaches of the law.

Our 2023–24 compliance program continued to build on a more integrated approach to our service delivery by including proactive, responsive and intelligence-based targeted components.

► Alcoa assurance program

On 7 December 2023 the Minister for Environment issued the Environmental Protection (Darling Range Bauxite Mining Proposals) Exemption Order 2023 under s.6 of the EP Act.

The order exempts Alcoa of Australia Limited (Alcoa) from compliance with s.41A of the EP Act, allowing Alcoa to continue implementing its mining operations under its five-year Mining and Management Programs. It also allows decision-making authorities to approve limited mining activities and operations without waiting for the outcome of the EPA assessment.

In January 2024, the department rapidly established a team under the new Water Assurance Division in the Assurance portfolio to intensively monitor Alcoa's operations to ensure compliance with the conditions of the exemption order. This is managed as part of an [initial assurance program](#).

By June the department had undertaken 160 inspections across Alcoa's Huntly and Willowdale mine sites – five to six per week. These were supported by site monitoring undertaken through a combination of desktop data reviews, satellite imagery and interviews with site personnel.


Promoting and monitoring compliance

The department conducted 88 inspections during the financial year to assess compliance with statutory instruments such as licences, works approvals, permits and notices, and regulatory requirements such as payment of the waste levy. We identified 75 non-compliances from these inspections and worked with industry to ensure identified issues were rectified in a timely manner.

Through the light industry and minor pollutant programs, we worked with local governments to undertake 157 inspections focused on

 **88**
inspections

educating light industry operators on how to reduce the environmental impact of their activities to minimise discharges of minor pollutants into the environment.

 **75**
non-compliances identified

Demolition waste is frequently at risk of being contaminated with asbestos, and asbestos is often dumped illegally. In 2023–24 we undertook compliance monitoring of waste operators that received asbestos or processed waste that is at high risk of being contaminated with asbestos. This involved 79 inspections to assess compliance with asbestos management plans, asbestos guidelines and licence conditions pertaining to asbestos at licensed waste facilities.



The department has responsibility for investigating waste-related offences under the EP Act and the *Litter Act 1979*. Illegal dumping and littering continue to be common problems and are committed by a wide range of people within the community. In 2023–24 we focused on the reduction of illegal dumping through the promotion of legal alternatives, the reduction of opportunities to dump waste, and education of local governments on the importance of supporting the department in the prosecution of identified illegal dumpers. We investigated reports of illegal dumping and littering, and implemented initiatives such as surveillance of common illegal dumping locations.

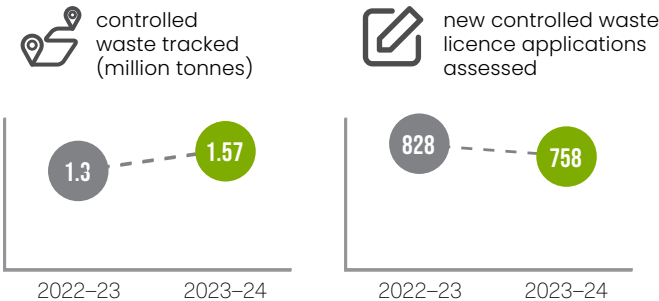
Controlled waste

We regulate the transportation of controlled waste in Western Australia through the Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004 (Controlled Waste Regulations) and the National Environmental Protection (Movement of Controlled waste between States and Territories) Measure. We license controlled waste carriers, drivers and vehicles transporting controlled wastes on roads and track controlled waste from waste holders to transit and waste facilities. During the year just less than 131,000 controlled waste tracking forms were used to track more than 1.57 million tonnes of controlled waste. A total of 758 new licences were assessed, all within the 30-day statutory timeframe.

The drafting of amendments to the Controlled Waste Regulations to streamline processes, reduce administrative burden for stakeholders and improve environmental outcomes is continuing.

Environment Watch

In 2023–24 our [Environment Watch](#) service (formerly Pollution Watch) received 9,736 reports, the highest on record. The department is committed to ensuring the community, industry and other parties are aware they can report pollution and a range of other environmental matters to Environment Watch. The service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Reports to Environment Watch provide significant intelligence to the department and enable us to identify and respond to emerging issues.



Responding to non-compliance

Our Environment Response unit responded to 373 incidents in 2023–24, including incidents of emissions and discharges to the environment such as hazardous material waste fires, fuel tanker rollovers, chemical spills and impacts to wildlife. Our priority response to these incidents mitigates further damage to the environment and leads to better environmental outcomes. We also work closely with other State Government agencies to provide support to emergency management arrangements across the state.

In February 2024, the department was part of a whole-of-government response to potential



Environment Watch

You can report pollution, illegal dumping and other environmental matters using our online form or by calling our Environment Watch hotline on **1300 784 782**.

Call 000 to report a life-threatening incident or emergency



contamination concerns at East Kalgoorlie Primary School caused by a gold processing operation identified nearby. Our officers provided critical support to this response through the provision of environmental sampling and air monitoring to identify any areas of concern.

Investigations undertaken in response to pollution and intelligence reports and information gained through our compliance subprograms resulted in seven successful convictions, 18 infringements and 21 letters of warning. Fines from prosecutions and modified penalties totalled \$132,000, along with \$31,451 in other costs.

In 2023–24, investigations into illegal dumping and littering resulted in nine people prosecuted for illegal dumping and littering, totalling \$28,100 in fines and \$6,769 in other costs. A total of 93 infringements and three letters of warning in relation to illegal dumping and littering were issued.

Seven Environmental Protection Notices and six Prevention Notices were issued in 2023–24 to address identified issues and mitigate environmental impacts. Twelve Vegetation Conservation Notices were given under s.70 of the EP Act where it was suspected that unlawful clearing of native vegetation was likely to occur, was occurring or had occurred.

The intent of a Vegetation Conservation Notice is to restore any environmental values lost. It requires the revegetation of cleared areas so native vegetation will recover to a condition as near as possible to the condition before the clearing occurred.


Assurance reform

Through 2023–24 the department continued to progress reforms to address the findings and recommendations of the Auditor General's Report 11: 2022–2023 [Compliance with Mining Environmental Conditions](#) (Auditor General's Report).



Environmental noise

The department responded to 150 requests for noise advice or support this year. Of these, in its role of supporting LGAs to administer the Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997, the department responded to 106 requests for environmental noise advice, technical support or laboratory analysis.

 **150**
requests for
noise advice
or support

Specialist environment noise advice was provided nine times relating to matters under EPA consideration, and in response to 16 requests from other Australian Government and State Government agencies.

Further support was provided to LGAs in the form of three noise regulation training sessions.

Contaminated sites

Contaminated land and water created by past industrial activities is managed under the Contaminated Sites Act and Contaminated Sites Regulations 2006.

The department is managing an increasing number of reported and classified sites each year, prompted by a better understanding of contaminants and the expansion of residential, commercial and industrial development.

In 2023–24 the department aimed to classify reported sites within 45 days, as required by s.14 of the Contaminated Sites Act. It has generally achieved this objective.

About 60 per cent of Mandatory Auditor's Reports (MARs) processed in 2023–24 that did not require referral to other agencies were processed within the target timeframe of 21 days. The shortfall reflects staff shortages in 2023–24. As staffing pressures continue to ease, processing times for MARs are expected to improve in 2024–25.

Sites classified as 'contaminated – remediation required' (251 at 30 June 2024) or high-priority 'possibly contaminated – investigation required' (289 at 30 June 2024) need ongoing review to establish whether the actions specified in the site classification are being implemented and the risk, or potential risk, to human health or the environment is being mitigated. Where appropriate action has not been taken, the department may serve statutory notices on relevant parties to complete the necessary actions.

As at 30 June 2024, there were 1,591 sites classified as 'possibly contaminated – investigation required' and 4,744 sites classified overall. There are also about 500 grace period sites (sites reported in the first six months following the Contaminated Sites Act commencement but not yet

classified) which remain dormant on the department's records.

The present housing shortage and the resulting prioritisation of residential development has placed additional pressure on the department to provide statutory planning advice and respond to MARs submitted to fulfil planning conditions for development sites (some with complex contamination issues) in shortened timeframes.

We prioritised processing within statutory timeframes (including Form 1 reports of a known or suspected contaminated site) and MARs submitted to report on compliance with regulatory notices (served under Part 4 of the Contaminated Sites Act) or submitted to clear planning conditions. MARs for high-risk sites, or changed site conditions, were also prioritised.



1,591
possibly
contaminated
– investigation
required sites



4,744
total sites
classified

The department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 15 permanent air quality monitoring stations in Western Australia. Nine of these sites – Armadale, Caversham, Duncraig, Mandurah, Quinns Rocks, Rolling Green, Rockingham, South Lake and Swanbourne – are within the Greater Perth region. There are six regional sites in Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Collie, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie.

Results are publicly available via the department's [Air Quality Index](#) and are updated hourly. This webpage also provides advice about actions the public can take for various levels of smoke (displayed as 'PM_{2.5}').

Since 2022, the department has operated an air quality monitoring network in Port Hedland, where dust levels can be higher than other areas in the state. Reporting for the first two years of operation is currently being finalised.

Air quality

Western Australia is a signatory to the National Environment Protection (Ambient Air Quality) Measure and is required to report annually on the results of air quality monitoring undertaken by the department.



Particle sensors deployed to the regions

The department has deployed low-cost air quality monitoring sensors to regional areas that do not have permanent monitoring stations. The network currently includes eight regional towns and cities, with sensors installed at local government offices.

The regional sensor network provides timely assessment of smoke levels to enable people in those communities to better understand their potential exposure and manage their activities to minimise the impacts of smoke.

The regional towns and cities included in the program have been selected based on population density. The data from these instruments can be viewed on sensor manufacturer [PurpleAir's website](#).

Recommendation 14.1 of the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements Report* released in 2020 emphasised the need for increased air quality information and health advice to communities, including vulnerable groups such as asthmatics. The recommendation also highlighted the use of low-cost sensors to accomplish this outcome.

High-resolution datasets to assess urban heat island effect in Perth

The urban heat island effect occurs in Perth and is caused by increasing urbanisation and motor vehicle use. It leads to increased temperatures that result in a range of negative impacts, including increased heatwave risk and higher air pollution levels.

The department has received funding from the Climate Action Fund for a scientific program that will develop high-resolution datasets for Perth to enable assessment of the urban heat island effect.

Substantial progress has been made in the areas of stakeholder engagement/ collaboration, supercomputing resource planning, input data identification and environmental monitoring. A recruitment process is underway for a technical specialist to continue the work.

Air quality technical advice

We continue to provide strategic, technical and policy advice on air quality matters such as ambient air quality, industrial emissions, odour modelling, meteorology, health standards and air toxics. In 2023–24, we undertook more than 120 technical reviews and provided scientific advice for high-profile projects.

These included a site audit of the 22 air quality monitoring stations in operation for the Murujuga Rock Art Monitoring Program, and site visits to Christmas Island (north-west) and Greenbushes (south-west) to inspect the monitoring of emission sources and ambient air quality undertaken by local industrial operations.



Air monitoring on Enderby Island



Outcome 3

Development and implementation of strategic policy and legislation that promoted sustainable environmental outcomes

Service 5 – Environmental and water policy

EP Act amendments

During the year, work to implement the *Environmental Protection Amendment Act 2020* continued. The Amendment Act is the most significant reform of Western Australia's environmental legislation in more than 30 years. It introduces a raft of amendments to Western Australia's primary environmental legislation – the EP Act.

The reforms are significant, so the amendments are being introduced through a staged approach.

The department is developing regulations and guidance that will support the effective implementation of amendments being proclaimed under each stage. The third and final stage is planned for the second half of 2024.



Native vegetation policy

Implementation of the [Native Vegetation Policy for Western Australia](#) began in 2023. The first year of implementation has seen the department facilitate broad economic and public policy thinking among agencies on solutions for efficient, strategic native vegetation outcomes.

With this foundational work done, in the coming year we will engage with other government agencies and stakeholders on individual actions within the [native vegetation policy implementation roadmap](#) to apply and expand the native vegetation knowledge base, improve mapping and monitoring of native vegetation status and values, and broaden the availability of spatial data. Some of these actions are aligned with recommendations from the review into the state's environmental approvals process and support the State Government's response on proposed Australian environmental law reforms.



Reform of environmental offsets

A program of reform is underway to address concerns about the scarcity of supply of environmental offsets and the deliverability of offsets projects.

Offsets play an important role in the environmental approvals system as they are often applied in the highest-impact proposals, where avoidance and mitigation has been factored into project design and there remains residual impact. As it has become increasingly difficult for proponents to provide suitable offsets under the current policy settings, the timelines for approvals and environmental outcomes are both compromised.

The reform program includes priority actions to help manage demand for environmental offsets, such as guidance on avoidance and offsets requirements. The department has worked with stakeholders to reveal exactly how the current policy approach affects their decision-making and will test potential changes before implementing to ensure any new approach improves both assessments and environmental outcomes.

The reform program is progressing, with changes to practice and policy expected in the coming year.

Nature programs

► Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund

In 2023–24 the [Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund](#) received offset fund contributions representing 11 environmental values, indicative of significant residual impacts across the Pilbara region.

We continued to work with three existing projects in collaboration with four Pilbara-based delivery partners and Aboriginal Ranger groups. One new project was approved for funding, with a further three detailed project plans and four project business cases under development.

We commissioned an independent evaluation of the fund during the year. A series of immediate and future actions has been developed through the lens of the evaluation's findings and recommendations. Implementing these recommendations will allow the fund to accelerate on-ground project delivery and achieve positive environmental outcomes.



► Environmental Revegetation and Rehabilitation Fund

The [Environmental Revegetation and Rehabilitation Fund](#) (ERRF) is a continuation of the Offsets Funds for Recovery and Native Vegetation Rehabilitation Scheme (part of the WA Recovery Plan's Green Jobs initiative, which has now finished). The ERRF Environmental Offset Design Project was completed this year, resulting in the development of works projects. These have been designed to deliver environmental offsets, job creation and training.

In 2023–24 a total of eight revegetation and rehabilitation works projects started in the Perth metropolitan area, and in the South West and South Coast regions. They are estimated to deliver a total of 486 ha of revegetation, along with training to 27 participants and the engagement of 38 Aboriginal employees over two years.

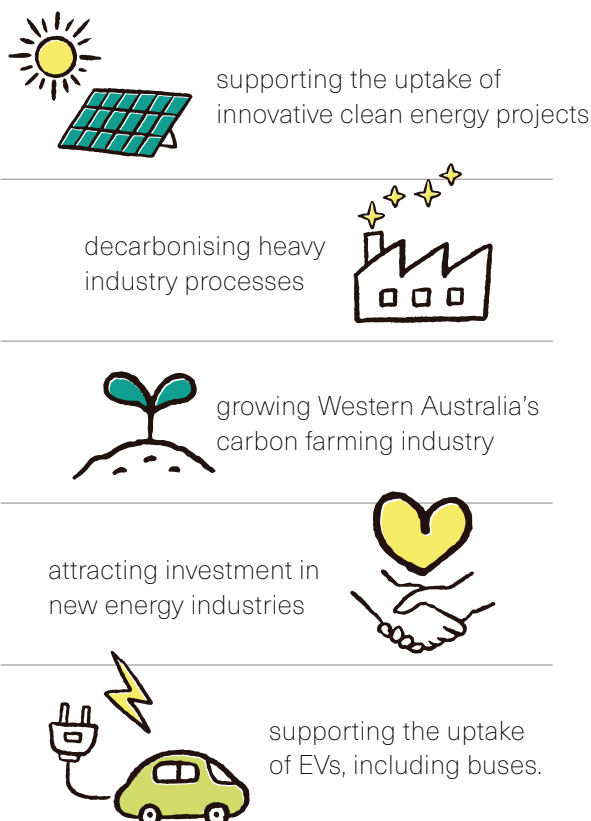


The Mt Barker Aboriginal Ranger team with Greening Australia staff at a revegetation project site near Cranbrook

Climate

► Sectoral emissions reduction strategy

The department led the development of the [SERS](#), released in December 2023, which provides robust and credible pathways for transitioning to net zero emissions by 2050. The SERS outlines new initiatives and significant investment to reduce emissions across the economy, including:



► Climate Adaptation Strategy

The department coordinated development of the state's first [Climate Adaptation Strategy](#), released in July 2023, which outlines 37 priority actions to ensure our communities and economy are resilient to risks posed by climate change. The actions are being led by seven State Government agencies and three Government Trading Enterprises, with \$39 million in new funding allocated through the 2023–24 State Budget.

The strategy sets out four key directions:



► **Climate Science Initiative**

The department is leading the Climate Science Initiative, in partnership with the New South Wales and Australian Regional Climate Program, Murdoch University and the Pawsey Supercomputing Centre, to produce Western Australia's most comprehensive climate science projections.

The projections will provide decision-makers with high-resolution data on key climate variables such as air temperature, evapotranspiration, humidity and precipitation under three emissions scenarios. Data is benchmarked against global best practice and will provide a strong foundation for state climate science research and climate risk modelling across all sectors.

► **Clean Energy Future Fund**

The [Clean Energy Future Fund](#) received an additional \$18 million of funding as part of the SERS. The fund continues to support projects that demonstrate significant, cost-effective emissions reductions that can be commercialised and lead to broader adoption.

Round 3 funding applications closed in June. Successful applicants and projects will be announced in late 2024.

► **Carbon Innovation Grants Program**

The \$15 million [Carbon Innovation Grants Program](#) is supporting feasibility studies and pilot projects that focus on innovative technologies to remove, reduce or offset hard-to-abate emissions from industrial processes.

The Minister for Climate Action announced the results of Round 1 of the grant program in October 2023. Grants totalling \$4.24 million were awarded to nine organisations to progress technologies to market readiness and commercialisation.




► State Electric Vehicle Strategy

The department coordinates the implementation of the [State Electric Vehicle Strategy for Western Australia](#) (EV Strategy) to facilitate increased adoption of EVs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve urban air quality. The EV Strategy is supporting the delivery of the WA EV Network led by Synergy and Horizon Power, which will extend more than 6,600 km, supplying 98 chargers across 49 locations.

The WA EV Network was substantially completed throughout 2023–24. This included 35 charging locations being operational between Kununurra in the north and Esperance in the south-east by 30 June 2024.

With EV sales continuing to increase, we have started development of a statewide strategy for future electric road transport charging infrastructure to support the transition to net zero. This initiative was announced as part of the SERS.

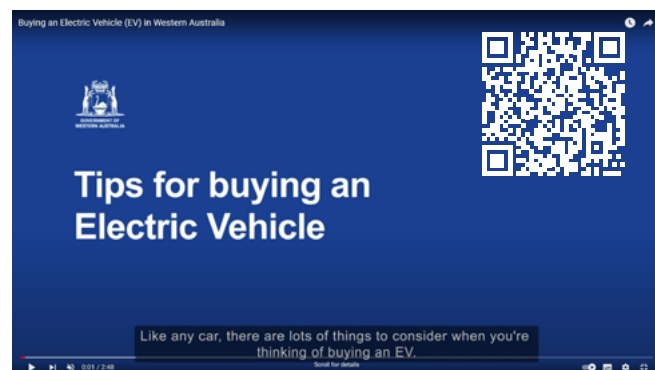
We supported the Australian Electric Vehicle Association's annual EV Expo and conference in November 2023. This enabled about 10,000 Western Australians to experience an EV firsthand, helping to demystify EV purchase decisions.

 **98**
chargers
planned
across
49 locations



Western Australia Electric Vehicle Charger Map

Intended charging station locations for the State Government's EV charging network.



Interested in buying an EV? Scan the QR codes to watch our videos for helpful information

[WA Electric Vehicle Charger Map](#)
(as at 30 June 2024)
© Synergy WA EV Network

► Regional climate alliances

Regional local governments are at the forefront of climate change. The Regional Climate Alliance pilot program established two local government partnerships for regional climate action: the South Coast Alliance and the Goldfields Voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils. The program funded coordinators and four climate resilience projects with oversight from the department, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and WALGA.

An evaluation found the program increased connectivity and capacity between councils to address climate change at a regional scale. It also highlighted the contribution of foundational projects to developing a deeper understanding of emissions reduction and adaptation.

► Policy development

The [Climate Change Bill 2023](#) was tabled in Parliament in November 2023 and will ensure State Government accountability on climate action. The legislation will formalise the target of net zero emissions by 2050 and require interim targets to be set for both the State Government and for Western Australia.

Consultation on the legislation was undertaken with a diverse cross-section of the community.

This included:

- First Nations people
- peak representative bodies from industry
- the agriculture, water and conservation sectors
- Australian and State government agencies
- local governments
- Government Trading Enterprises
- universities
- advocacy groups
- non-government organisations.

A total of 260 submissions were considered in developing the final Bill.

► Climate Risk Capability Initiative

The department-led Climate Risk Capability Initiative aligns with the whole-of-government approach to enhancing climate resilience. The initiative is being delivered in partnership with the Department of Treasury to develop a governance and reporting framework to manage climate risks facing the Western Australian public sector.

The initiative has been helping to build knowledge of climate risk, adaptation planning and reporting within the public sector through capacity-building workshops held from July 2023 to June 2024. Further workshops are planned in the next financial year.

Advisory groups

► Aboriginal Water and Environment Advisory Group

Recognising the profound cultural knowledge and connection to Country and living waters of First Nations people, the AWEAG provides strategic counsel to the department. The AWEAG meets quarterly to ensure that Aboriginal knowledge, values and needs are considered and appropriately addressed in the way we manage and regulate Western Australia's environment and water resources.

We continue to support the AWEAG to strengthen its governance by providing regular briefings on the department's strategies, policies, programs and planning.

The AWEAG refreshes its membership bi-annually and we seek expressions of interest from community members through the [department's website](#).



► Air Quality Coordinating Committee

The [Air Quality Coordinating Committee](#) comprises representatives from the State Government, industry, business and the community. The committee oversees the implementation of the Perth Air Quality Management Plan, which aims to ensure clean air is achieved and maintained throughout the Perth metropolitan region to 2030 and beyond. The committee met twice between July 2023 and June 2024.

► Cockburn Sound Management Council

The [Cockburn Sound Management Council](#) is an advisory council to the Minister for Environment established under s.25 of the EP Act. The scope of the council includes oversight and coordination of environmental monitoring of the Cockburn Sound marine area, consistent with the [State Environmental \(Cockburn Sound\) Policy 2015](#) published by the EPA.

Annual monitoring in the Cockburn Sound marine area includes monthly water quality sampling, real-time water monitoring and seagrass surveys. The Council consists of representatives of the community, conservation interests, recreational interests and industry, as well as Australian, State and local government representatives.

The Council met quarterly in 2023–24.

► Exmouth Gulf Taskforce

The [Exmouth Gulf Taskforce](#) was established in July 2022 under the EP Act as the coordinating body to assist the State Government in considering strategic conservation, planning and management issues relating to the Exmouth Gulf. This was in response to the EPA's 2021 [s.16\(e\) strategic advice on Exmouth Gulf](#).

The Taskforce's members include representatives from:

- Nganhurra Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation – the Prescribed Body Corporate for the Exmouth Gulf, representing the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the Gulf
- Australian Government
- State Government
- local government
- conservation groups
- industry
- Exmouth Gulf users
- the Exmouth community.

The inaugural Exmouth Gulf Taskforce Chair, Ms Laine Ashforth-McDonald, resigned in September 2023 and the State Government appointed David McFerran as the new Chair on 11 March 2024. The Taskforce met five times in 2023–24, with two meetings held in Exmouth.

The [Exmouth Gulf Taskforce – Interim Report to the Minister for Environment](#) was delivered in September 2023. This interim report provided options for long-term integrated management of the land and sea, with advice on the establishment of a secure, jointly managed marine reserve over the wider Gulf.

The Taskforce will provide a final report to the Minister for Environment in 2025 that addresses future protections and integrated management of the Exmouth Gulf and its surrounds.





Outcome 4

Waste avoided and the recovery of materials from landfill maximised

Service 6 – Waste strategies

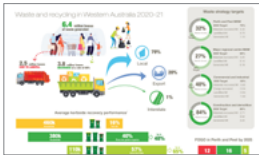
Strategies and plans

The *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007* sets out requirements for the [Waste Authority](#) to develop a waste strategy for Western Australia. Since the release of the waste strategy in 2019, there has been solid progress towards achieving the five- and 10-year targets relating to waste avoidance, resource recovery and protection of health and the environment.

As five years approaches, a review of the waste strategy is underway to ensure it stays current and relevant, and to reflect on performance to determine what is working and what could be done differently.

The Waste Authority sought feedback in mid-2023 on a directions paper, which sets out key areas it proposed to focus on in the review. This informed the development of the revised waste strategy, which was released on 29 May 2024 for 12 weeks of public consultation. The updated waste strategy and roadmap is anticipated to be released in mid-2025.

In May 2024, the [State waste infrastructure plan](#) was published. This resource will guide decision-making for the planning and development of waste infrastructure in Western Australia.



[Waste data reporting and plans](#)

[P89](#)



[Community education and engagement](#)

[P90](#)



[WasteSorted Schools](#)

[P91](#)



[WasteSorted Awards](#)

[P91](#)



[Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO](#)

[P92](#)



[WasteSorted grants](#)

[P92](#)



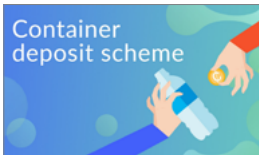
[Household Hazardous Waste program](#)

[P92](#)



[E-waste](#)

[P93](#)



[Container deposit scheme](#)

[P93](#)



[Plan for Plastics](#)

[P94](#)



[Roads to Reuse](#)

[P94](#)



[Recovered materials framework](#)

[P94](#)



[Recycling Modernisation Fund](#)

[P95](#)



[Food Waste for Healthy Soils](#)

[P95](#)



[Western Australian litter strategy](#)

[P96](#)



Waste levy and funding

The waste levy is an economic instrument to influence waste management practices, including reducing waste to landfill, by increasing the price of landfill disposal. It also raises funds to support waste-related programs that reduce waste to landfill. In 2023–24 the levy was paid in respect to 16 landfill premises, eight of which were in the Perth metropolitan region and eight in regional areas.

The waste levy was increased in 2023–24 to \$85 per tonne for putrescible landfills and \$129 per cubic metre at inert landfills (from \$70 and \$105 respectively), effective from 1 July 2024 to maintain its value against inflation. The department also published a five-year projection of the expected increases to the waste levy to offset inflation.

In 2023–24, \$94.35 million in waste levy funds was collected and used to deliver important programs such as:

- Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Roads to Reuse
- behaviour change
- WasteSorted Schools
- grants for education and infrastructure.

Funding was also allocated to waste data collection, waste policy, compliance and enforcement, the Plan for Plastics, e-waste and implementation of the litter strategy.

Waste data reporting and plans

Local governments in Perth, Peel and major regional centres are required to report annually to the department on the implementation of the actions in their waste plans and on any new actions implemented since their waste plans were submitted. The department uses the reports to assess whether the local governments are delivering their waste services consistent with the waste strategy and making progress towards waste strategy targets.

Under r.18C of the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008, waste and recycling data must be reported to the department each year. This year, 257 annual returns were lodged. Data collected through the annual returns are published on the Waste Authority website annually. Data products published include a report, data downloads and interactive dashboards. Data can also be found at [Data WA](#).



Waste projects

► Community education and engagement

[Be a GREAT Sort](#), a campaign under the [WasteSorted](#) behaviour change program, was launched in August 2020 to help local governments and the community improve waste sorting. The campaign uses behaviour-change principles and asks the community to choose simple actions to make ‘landfill the last resort’ and ‘do better than the bin’.

Western Australians increasingly believe their waste sorting makes a difference. This year, the campaign brought the GREAT Sort characters to life by using real people to model behaviours. It reached more than 2.1 million people through social media, YouTube and broadcast video on demand, and about 407,000 listeners on metropolitan and regional radio.

Each year, a survey of 1,000 households, media reach statistics and bin tagging data are used to evaluate the effectiveness of key messages in changing behaviour. In 2024, the evaluation showed the sorting of household e-waste was



Find out about WasteSorted on [YouTube](#)

improving, especially the correct disposal of batteries and e-waste, which need to be taken to a drop-off location. The campaign has been successful in reaching people, with almost half of those surveyed now recognising the GREAT Sorts campaign. Survey participants have also reported that they see recycling correctly, avoiding single-use items and donating/upcycling, to be the most sustainable waste management solutions.

The [WasteSorted toolkit](#) continues to provide valuable resources to local governments, industry and community to convey clear and consistent messaging to reduce contamination in kerbside bins and increase materials recovery and recycling. In 2023–24, the toolkit was updated to include flyers in 13 languages for culturally and linguistically diverse communities, along with flyers for those living in multi-unit developments such as flats and apartments. More than 30 local governments and regional councils are using these toolkits and campaign materials.

Households are encouraged to adopt five priority GREAT waste behaviours:

Gifting
Gift stuff to charity, swap or sell

Recycling
Recycle plastic, glass, cans, paper and cardboard

Earth-cycling
Food scraps into compost and cardboard

Avoiding
Avoid excess packaging and disposables

Taking
Take special waste to drop-offs



► WasteSorted Schools

The [WasteSorted Schools](#) program continues to support Western Australian schools by engaging students through curriculum-aligned education resources and meaningful, hands-on learning activities. Initiatives for the year included the production of the Primary Food Waste Curriculum for Year 5 teachers and a waste station fact sheet.

The program also partnered with organisations to support schools in the Kimberley and Kalgoorlie–Boulder regions and Perth's southern suburbs, as well as to deliver workshops to early years learning services. In the past year, accreditations increased from 94 to 213 for primary schools, 10 to 32 for secondary schools, and 15 to 31 for combined primary and secondary (K–12) schools. Of these, 59 were regional schools (up from 30).

In 2023–24, the WasteSorted Schools grants program awarded \$234,057 (excluding GST) to 86 schools for projects that avoid and recover school waste.

WasteSorted Schools highlights

July 2023 to June 2024



4 sustainability

fairs/assemblies were attended by WasteSorted Schools staff



20 professional

workshops were held for teachers



21 schools

were provided project support



276 schools

achieved accreditation

► WasteSorted Awards

By recognising projects that avoid waste, recover value from waste streams and protect the environment, the [WasteSorted Awards](#) celebrate the outstanding achievements of Western Australians working towards a low-waste and circular economy future. A total of 108 nominations were received in 2023 across 11 categories, including the new 'Closing the Loop' category to celebrate initiatives that promote a circular economy.

The awards event was held in September 2023 to coincide with the Waste and Recycle Conference, which was jointly hosted by the department, the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia and WALGA.



Find out about the Community Waste Award winner on [YouTube](#)

► Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO

[Through Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO](#) we continue to support the waste strategy target to roll out better practice three-bin FOGO services across Perth and Peel local governments by 2025. This means a red-lidded bin for general waste, a yellow-lidded bin for recycling and a lime green-lidded bin for FOGO.

In 2023–24, four local governments applied for grants totalling \$3.278 million to support the delivery of better practice three-bin FOGO services. As at 30 June, funding has been committed to two of these local governments to introduce FOGO to more than 65,000 households. FOGO systems have now been rolled out to close to 215,000 households throughout the Perth, South West and South Coast regions.

Bin tagging provides feedback to households on individual kerbside bin contents to help educate residents and reduce contamination in the bins. This initiative was delivered to about

13,000 households this year with the support of six local governments and two regional councils. WALGA received \$120,000 for these program activities in 2023–24 as part of a four-year grant (2020–24) to deliver the bin tagging program.

► WasteSorted grants

Since 2017–18 the department has administered waste grant funding programs, awarding more than \$9.5 million to Western Australian projects to improve the recovery and reuse of focus materials, including plastics, construction and demolition waste, textiles and organics.

The 2023–24 funding round of the [WasteSorted Infrastructure Grants](#) program saw \$1.983 million awarded to 11 waste infrastructure projects. Priority was given to projects that supported recovery and reprocessing of the prioritised focus materials: food and garden organics, and textiles.

Under the community education grants program, 18 projects were funded to a total of \$249,710. Fifteen education projects are progressing across the Perth metropolitan area and in regional locations. Projects include clothes swaps, textile waste campaigns, community events and workshops, resource packs, tours for culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and signage.

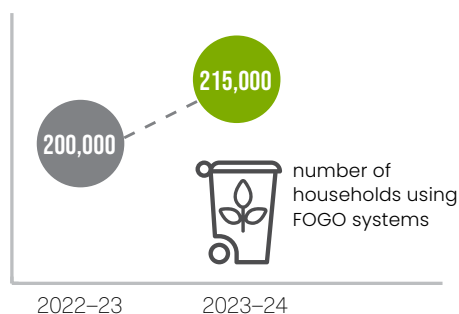
Waste priorities

► Household Hazardous Waste program

The [Household Hazardous Waste](#) program funds local governments and regional councils to collect, store, recover and dispose of flammable, toxic, explosive or corrosive hazardous waste generated by households. If not treated or disposed of correctly, these products can pose a threat to public health and the environment. There are currently 15 sites – nine metropolitan and six regional – where people can drop off their household hazardous waste at no charge.

In 2023–24, 503 tonnes of material was collected for safe recovery or disposal, including gas bottles, batteries, flammable liquids and cleaning products.

The Waste Authority entered into a new five-year agreement with WALGA that commits more than \$10.255 million to support the continuing success of the household hazardous waste service through to 2028.



► E-waste

Waste electrical or electronic equipment (e-waste) is one of the fastest-growing waste streams. It can contain valuable materials including gold and silver, as well as substances that are hazardous to the environment.

Following a 2021 election commitment, the State Government has delivered a [ban on e-waste disposal to landfill](#). The ban is applied under the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (e-waste) Regulations 2024, which came into effect on 1 July 2024. The first phase of the ban includes televisions, mobile phones, computers, screens, data storage, white goods, batteries, medical devices, lighting and lamps. Photovoltaics, small household items and monitoring and control equipment are being considered for future phases of the ban.

Funding of \$14 million has been committed to the implementation of the ban, to be used for stakeholder consultation and guidance, grants and a community education campaign.

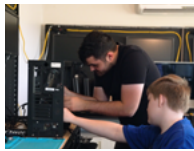


Be inspired: Learn how Sam's Spares saves unwanted IT e-waste from landfill on [YouTube](#)

Target behaviours include:



sorting e-waste at home and taking it to drop-off points so materials can be recovered, recycled and reused



repairing broken e-waste items



gifting items that are no longer needed.

The campaign 'call to action' directs community members to Recycle Right's [Find My Nearest](#) search engine, where they can find their local drop-off locations.

In July 2023, more than \$6.5 million was awarded to 21 projects to boost Western Australia's recycling capacity for e-waste. This forms part of a two-year, \$10.1 million grant program to develop e-waste recycling infrastructure to support the e-waste ban. The second e-waste infrastructure grant round opened for applications in February 2024, with further funding to be distributed in 2024–25.

► Container deposit scheme

[Containers for Change](#), Western Australia's container deposit scheme, continues to reduce litter and increase recycling while creating new business opportunities across the state. By 30 June 2024, more than 3.39 billion containers had been recovered for recycling and more than \$12.5 million was donated to charities, schools and community groups through the scheme.



The recycling rate for drink containers has increased from 34 per cent at the start of the scheme in October 2020 to 63 per cent in 2022–23. More than 41,000 tonnes of glass has been sold to Orora Glass in South Australia, where it is recycled into new glass bottles.

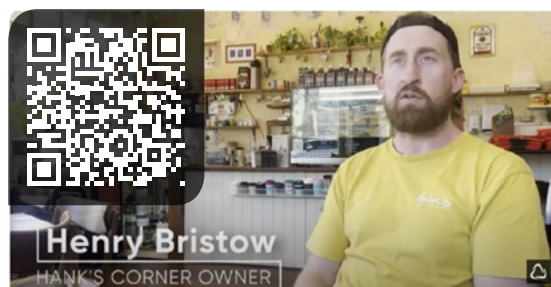


► Plan for Plastics

Western Australia's nation-leading [Plan for Plastics](#) has completed its third year of implementation as part of global efforts to reduce problematic and unnecessary single-use plastics and protect the environment. Stage 1 of the Plan has saved 430 million single-use plastics from either the landfill or litter stream each year and Stage 2, which is now in progress, will see an additional 700 million items saved per annum.

Stage 2 of the Plan has staggered enforcement dates to provide time for businesses to comply with the bans. An education campaign for businesses is being implemented to support the transition.

Western Australia has provided leadership in this area, as it is the only jurisdiction in the country to have banned plastic lids for takeaway cups.



Be inspired: Find out how Hank's Corner created a community around reusables on [YouTube](#) (video created by Boomerang Alliance)

► Roads to Reuse

The [Roads to Reuse](#) (RtR) program continues to encourage State Government agencies, local governments, regional councils and the private sector to use recycled construction and demolition products in civil applications such as road construction. It does this by supporting the supply to market of recycled construction and demolition products that meet a product specification, to protect human health and the environment. Three accredited RtR recyclers were operating at four sites in the Perth and Peel regions in 2023–24.

The department and the Waste Authority have worked closely with the transport portfolio to increase the use of RtR material in road and transport projects. Main Roads Western Australia has now used more than 220,000 tonnes of RtR products since 2019 and aims to work with the Office of Major Transport Infrastructure Delivery to double the 2021–22 targets, to use more than 200,000 tonnes of crushed recycled concrete on selected projects.



RtR also delivers an independent audit of construction and demolition waste recyclers' processes and products to ensure recycled products meet the RtR product specification. Four independent audits were conducted throughout the year.

► Recovered materials framework

In 2023, the State Government approved the development of a legislated recovered materials framework which aims to overcome barriers to the reuse of materials by providing guidance and legal certainty on the circumstances in which recovered materials would no longer be considered waste. The department is working on the detailed design of the legislative amendments and supporting regulations as well as processes and systems to implement a future recovered materials framework.

The proposed amendments will improve the current regulatory framework by:

- establishing the capacity for the department's CEO to make declarations in relation to recovered materials, setting out the product specifications, production and management requirements and acceptable uses for the relevant material
- providing certainty that recovered materials produced, managed and used in accordance with such a declaration (declared recovered materials) are not 'waste' for the purposes of the relevant legislation and therefore will not trigger licensing and levy requirements (where applicable).

The proposed recovered materials framework would support other waste policy and initiatives – including the national waste export



ban and the state's waste strategy – while ensuring the objectives of the environmental protection and waste management legislative frameworks are upheld.

► Recycling Modernisation Fund

In January 2021, the export of waste plastic, tyres, glass, paper and cardboard was banned through the Australian Government's *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020*. The state continues to work with the Australian Government and industry to build local infrastructure and create markets for recycled resources and products, and to become more resilient to fluctuating international markets and trends.

In February 2021, \$70 million in joint Australian and State government funding was announced to transform Western Australia's waste and recycling industry through the [Recycling Modernisation Fund](#). The funding helps Western Australian industry proponents to build infrastructure to reprocess waste materials onshore and meet the waste export ban requirements.

Three recycling infrastructure projects (two tyre and one plastic) supported through the first Recycling Modernisation Fund funding round are operational or nearing completion, with a further three projects (two tyre and one plastic) progressing well. A second funding round has identified eight additional tyre, plastic, paper and cardboard projects that are yet to be announced for funding.

► Food Waste for Healthy Soils

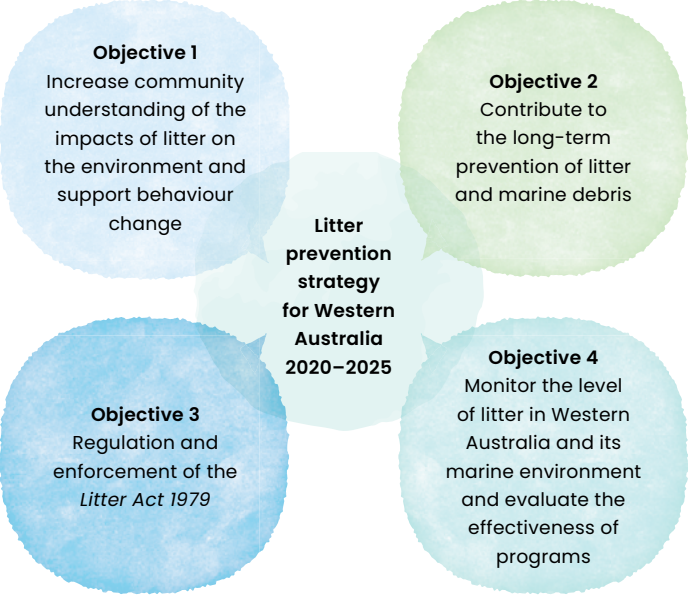
The [Food Waste for Healthy Soils Fund](#) is a partnership between the Australian Government and State Government and industry to support upgrades to existing organics recycling infrastructure. It aims to increase the quantity and improve the quality of recycled organic products for use, especially on agricultural soils.

In May 2023, the Australian Government and State Government announced a co-investment totalling \$11.25 million for three new organic recycling infrastructure projects. These will divert up to 275,000 tonnes of Western Australia's FOGO waste from landfill each year and convert it into compost and other soil products. The three projects are collectively valued at \$65 million and located to the north, east and south of Perth, and are expected to be completed by June 2026.

Three new organic recycling infrastructure projects will provide Western Australian farmers with a reliable source of high-quality compost and support **146 construction jobs** and **98 ongoing positions**.

► Western Australian litter strategy










The [Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA](#) (KABC), whose vision is for a litter-free Western Australia, received grant funding of \$987,000 from the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Account towards the implementation of the [Litter prevention strategy for Western Australia 2020–2025](#). The strategy has four strategic objectives:

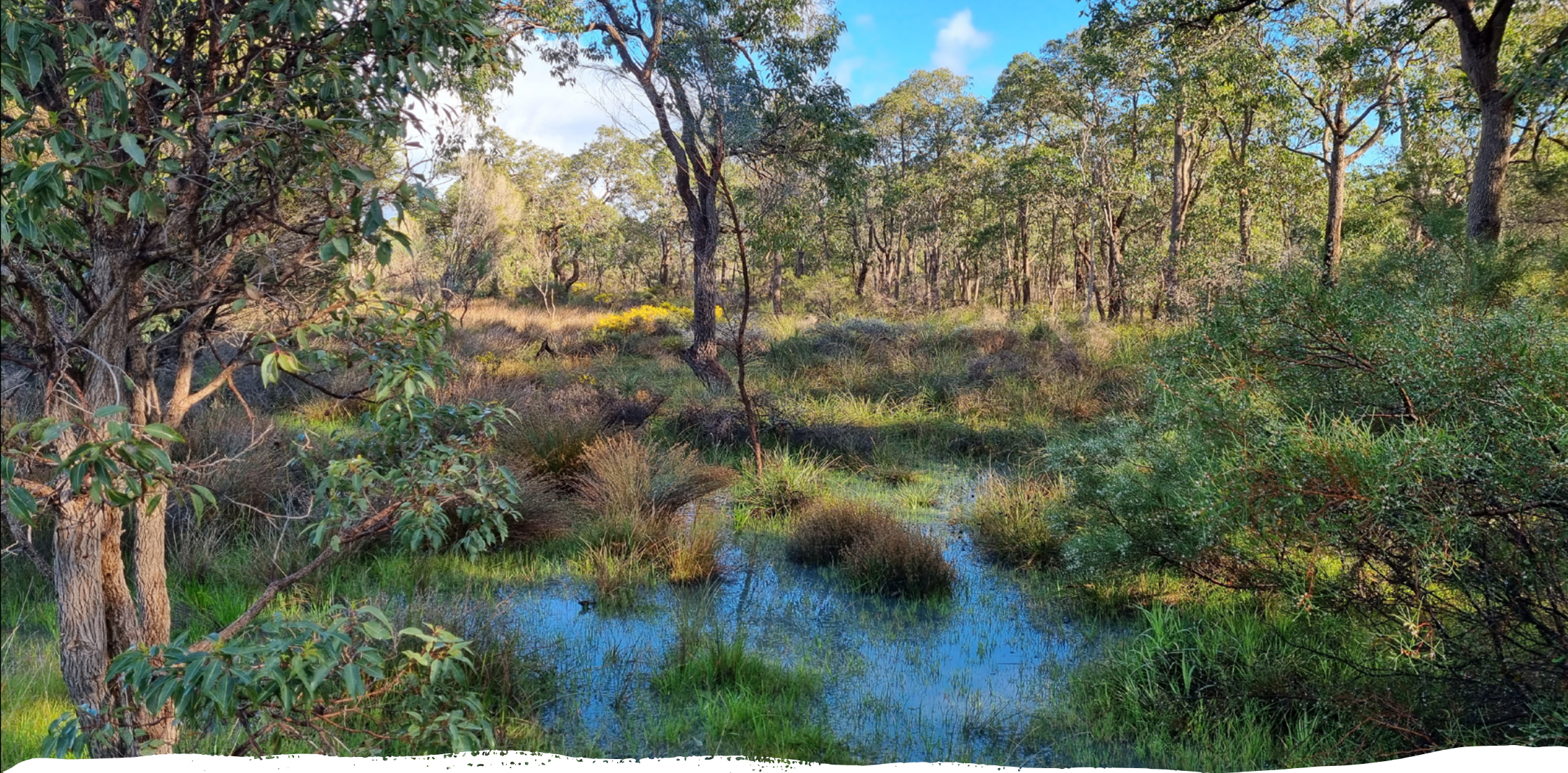


Make a difference! Register as a Litter Reporter, become an Unseen Hero. Find out on [YouTube](#)

KABC highlights

July 2023 to June 2024

	Litter surveys	Two full litter surveys were conducted, surveying more than 57 sites in 10 local government areas across Perth.
	Tidy Towns	Entries from 33 communities were received for the 2023 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards . Pingelly was named the 2023 state winner and went on to represent Western Australia in the National Tidy Towns Awards, winning the Community Health and Wellbeing Award. More than 54,030 hours of volunteer participation was recorded in the submitted projects.
	Adopt-a-Spot	The Adopt-a-Spot program was expanded by 172 to 2,279 registered groups, equalling more than 59,000 volunteers.
	Litter Grants	A total of \$47,808 of funding was provided to 10 recipients through the Community Litter Grants for action and education on litter prevention projects.
	Clean Schools	Six Clean Schools workshops were held, including four in partnership with WasteSorted Schools. A total of 790 schools, early learning centres, out-of-school hours programs and local governments are registered in the Clean Schools program.
	New campaigns	Promotion of the Unseen Heroes campaign continued, which aims to increase community involvement in the Litter Reporter Scheme .
	36 events attended	Thirty-six events were attended. Regional events included the Martu Youth Festival in Punmu, the Busselton Jetty Swim and the Flotsam and Jetsam clean-up on the Abrolhos Islands. Key metropolitan events included the Leighton Beach Clean Up Australia Day event, Lilac Hill Avon Descent festival and the River Guardians Festival at Sir James Mitchell Park.
	WA Beach Clean-ups	KABC partnered with Tangaroa Blue for WA Beach Clean-up activities, including visits to Busselton, Augusta, Walpole, Denmark and Albany to support local schools and community groups with beach clean-ups and audits. All data gathered was added to the Australian Marine Debris Initiative database. Over five days, 3,300 items were removed from the environment, weighing 39.5 kg in total.
	Outback Packs	KABC's Outback Packs were updated with information and design to target specific regional areas including the Mid West and Pilbara.



Outcome 5

Quality advice to Environmental Protection Authority and Minister for Environment on significant proposals and environmental issues

Service 7 – Environmental impact assessment services to the EPA

The [EPA](#) is an independent authority that provides advice on environmental matters to the Minister for Environment. The department has continued to provide services to the EPA to conduct environmental impact assessments of significant development proposals and planning schemes.

Development proposals

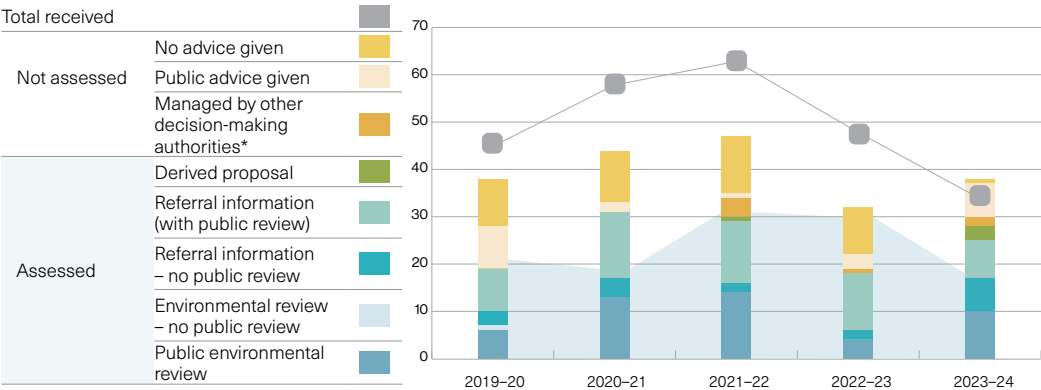
In 2023–24 there were 34 proposals referred to the EPA. The EPA may not necessarily make a determination on whether to assess a referred proposal in the same year the proposal is referred. Only when the EPA has sufficient information about the referred proposal can it make a determination on whether formal assessment is required.

The EPA determined eight proposals did not require further assessment, and 24 proposals required formal assessment.

Planning schemes and scheme amendments

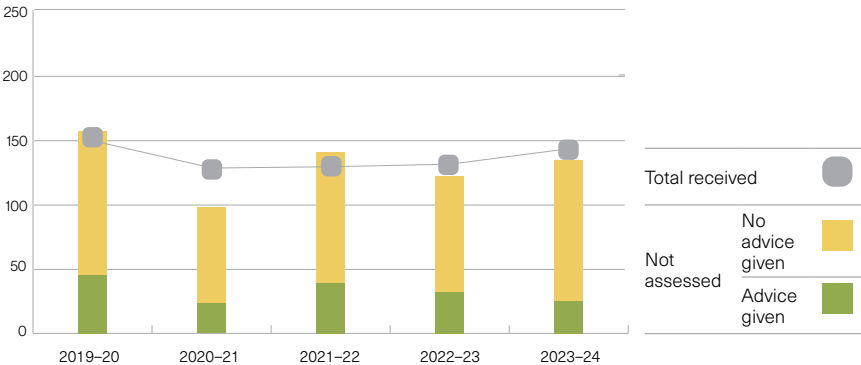
In 2023–24 the EPA received 143 schemes. It determined one required formal assessment and 134 did not require further assessments. The EPA provided advice and recommendations to the responsible authority on the environmental issues raised by 25 of the referred schemes that did not require further assessment.

Total development proposals referred to the EPA and decisions



* Previously managed under Part V only

Total schemes and scheme amendments referred to the EPA and 'not assessed' decisions



► Completed assessments

In 2023–24 the department supported the EPA to complete 20 reports to the Minister for Environment, of which 16 report on the assessment of new referrals (see table below).

Assessment reports completed

Type of assessment	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24
Formal assessments				
Public environmental review	5	5	4	9
Environmental review (no public review)	1	0	0	0
Assessment on referral information (no public review)	5	2	1	2
Assessment on referral information (with public review)	2	7	5	5
Strategic proposal	-	-	0	0
Subtotal	13	14	10	16
Changes to conditions				
s.46 inquiry	8	9	7	4
Total	21	23	17	20

Under s.46 of the EP Act, a further four inquiries into changes to conditions of existing projects were also completed.

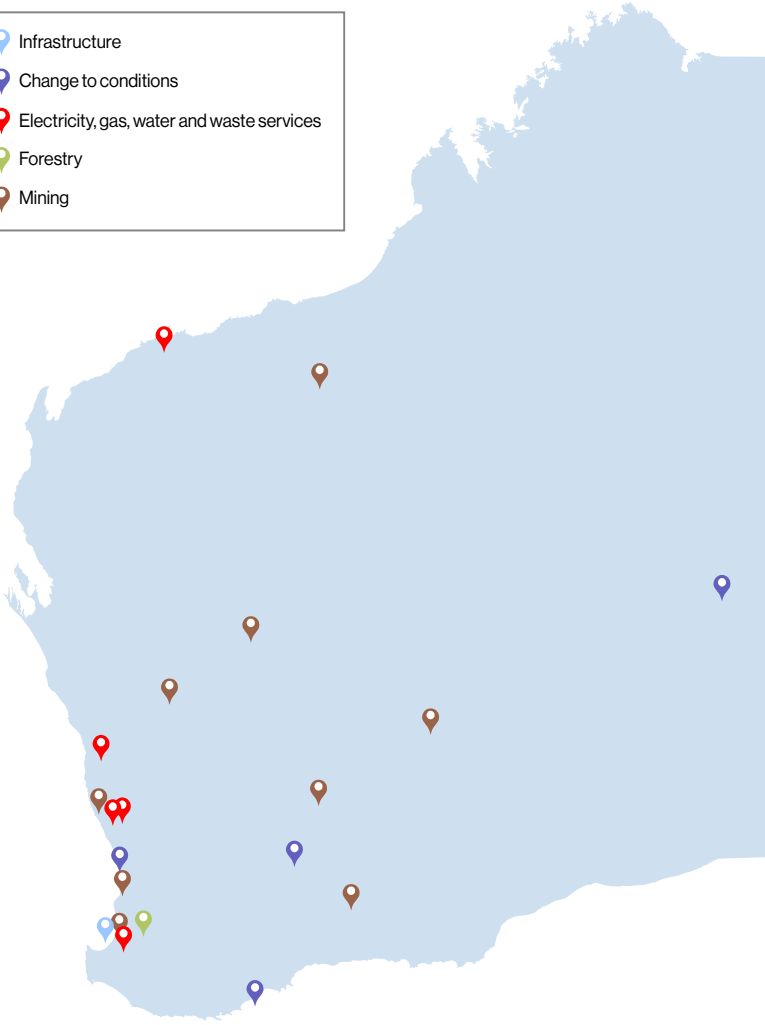
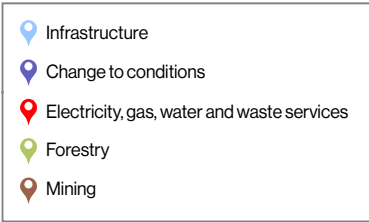
These inquiries included Beenyup Wastewater Ocean Outlets into Marmion Marine Park (EPA Report 1751), Wingellina Nickel Project (EPA Report 1762), Parker Range (Mount Caudan) Iron Ore Project (EPA Report 1763) and Cape Riche Seawater Desalination Plant (EPA Report 1764).

There were three other assessments of scheme amendments. These included the City of Gosnells Town Planning Scheme 6 Amendment 166, City of Gosnells Town Planning Scheme 6 Amendment 169 (EPA Report 1757) and the Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 1344/57 – Maida Vale Urban Precinct (EPA Report 1766).

The map (right) shows the location and type of all the proposals for which assessment reports were completed in 2023–24.

Assessments this year included the Kwinana Renewable Fuels Project, Mt Weld Rare Earths Project and the Woodside Solar Facility.

The EPA completed its assessment of the *Forest Management Plan 2024–2033*, which considered the unique biodiversity of the South West’s forests and the range of environmental, cultural and social values they held. The EPA recommended the plan be approved subject to conditions.



Consultation

Providing opportunities for genuine public consultation is an important part of the EPA's environmental impact assessments. Members of the public are invited to offer advice, identify omitted relevant information, provide local knowledge and propose alternatives during several stages.

The first opportunity for the community to engage is when the EPA initially publishes the details of a significant proposal at the referral stage, which allows a seven-day public comment period. After this, the EPA considers submissions and advice obtained and makes a determination on whether to assess the proposal and, if so, the level of assessment required.

Relevant proponent information, such as environmental review documents, may then be published during the assessment on the EPA website for public review, through which submissions and feedback can be made.

During the 2023–24 financial year, there were almost 5,000 submissions relating to 46 proposals via the EPA Consultation Hub.

Service 8 – Environmental management services to the EPA

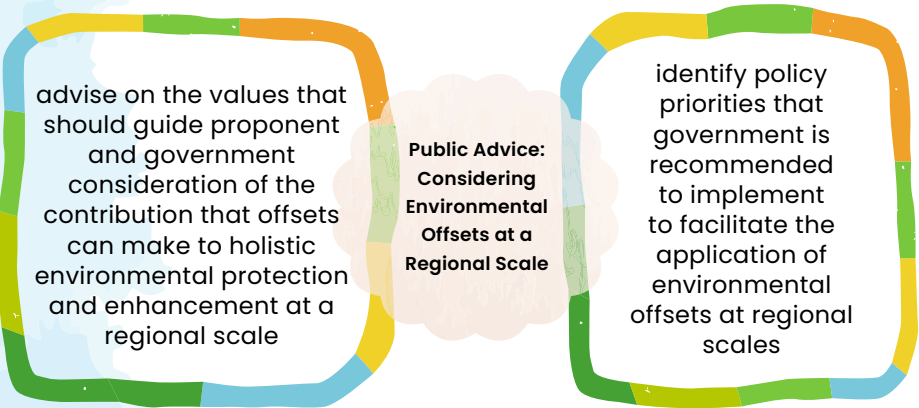
Regional-scale environmental offsets public advice

The EPA published [Public Advice: Considering Environmental Offsets at a Regional Scale](#) in March 2024. This aligned with its [Strategic Plan 2023–26](#) to establish an EPA position on the application of offsets at a regional scale to ensure intergenerational environmental protection and enhancement.

The EPA recognises the importance of publishing a position that sets out its expectations of environmental offset proposals from a regional perspective.

The EPA is increasingly being asked to consider the application of offsets only at a local scale and for averted biodiversity loss; however, such an approach does not consider regional scale or broader environmental protection and enhancement needs. The EPA observes that through consideration of the regional scale, there is opportunity to allow offsets and other enhancement measures to contribute to delivering nature-positive outcomes by enhancing the resilience, connectedness and quality of environmental values.

In releasing this public advice, the EPA aimed to:



Since being released, the public advice has been applied to deliver a regional offset approach within the Great Western Woodland Region. The Medcalf Vanadium Project was recommended for approval by the EPA in May 2024, and involved a large regional offset package.

Greenhouse gas guidance

A range of projects spanning industry, mining and the oil and gas sectors across Western Australia have received updated and contemporary greenhouse gas conditions over the past 12 months. This followed the publication of the EPA's revised greenhouse gas guidelines in April 2023.

The revised guidelines considered up-to-date climate science, law and policy and reflected the EPA's objective to minimise the risk of environmental harm associated with climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions as far as practicable.

During 2023–24, the EPA assessed and recommended contemporary conditions for projects including McPhee Creek, the West Erregulla Processing Plant and Pipeline (assessed with the West Erregulla Field Development Program – split proposal), the Gabaninthia Vanadium Project, the Yogi Magnetite Project, the Wingellina Nickel Project (s.46) and Great Southern Landfill.

The EPA's expectation is that there should be deep, substantial and sustained emissions reductions this decade, and a linear trajectory towards net zero from 2030 to 2050. The EPA will consider practicable measures to reduce overlap and avoid duplication with existing frameworks such as the Australian

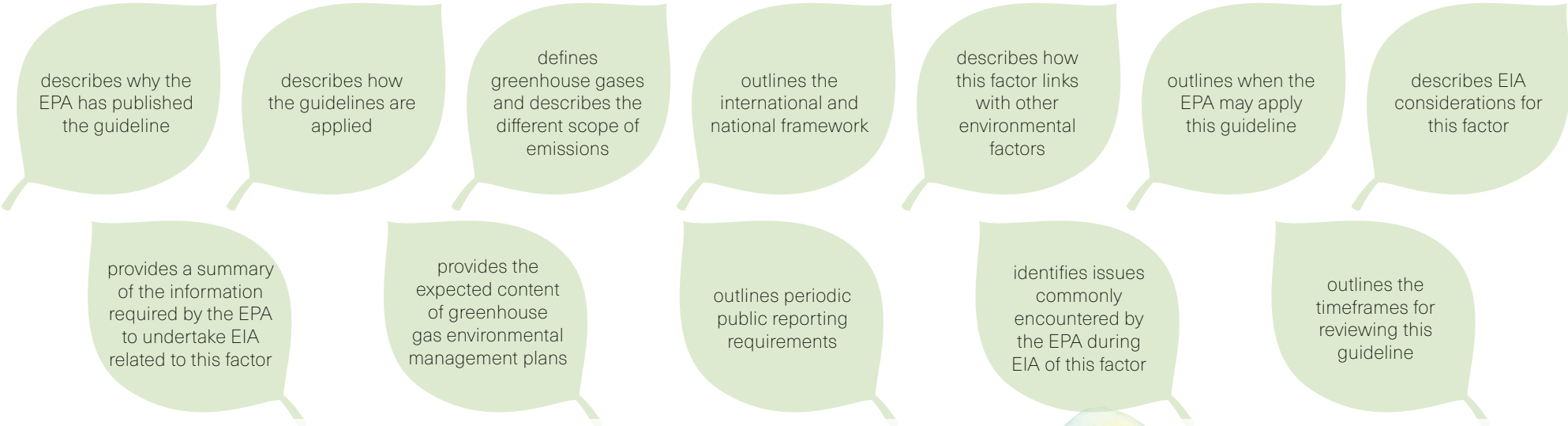
Government's Safeguard Mechanism and the federal legislative reduction target of 43 per cent by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

Stakeholder Reference Group

The department supported the EPA's Stakeholder Reference Group, which invites representation from key external stakeholders and peak industry bodies. Members can provide input to guidelines, processes and performance. During the year, the group met quarterly.

Revised Environmental Factor Guideline – Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The current guideline (April 2023):





Outcome 6

Compliance with Ministerial Statement implementation conditions is monitored effectively

Service 9 – Compliance monitoring services to the Minister for Environment

Ministerial Statements

Ministerial Statements are issued under Part IV of the EP Act and outline how a proposal is to be implemented and, if applicable, what conditions and procedures that implementation is subject to. If a proponent does not ensure implementation of the proposal is in accordance with the implementation conditions, the proponent commits an offence. When non-compliance with an implementation condition or proponent commitment in a Ministerial Statement is identified, the proponent is issued with a 'notice of non-compliance' and the Minister for Environment is informed.

Under our 2023–24 compliance priorities, we continued to monitor significant proposals authorised under Ministerial Statements using a variety of methods including audits, inspections and stakeholder engagement. In 2023–24 we completed nine audits including iron ore mining, major road projects and fertiliser manufacturing. Additionally,

25 compliance assessment reports were reviewed and eight notices of non-compliance were issued.

The purpose of these notices is to resolve any non-compliances and identified environmental impacts and to determine what steps have been or are planned to be taken to prevent a recurrence.

The results from the compliance activities identify areas for improving proponents' compliance and inform future annual programs and the environmental impact assessment process.

Annual compliance fees

In 2021 the Environmental Protection (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2021 were introduced. These included a fee which is payable each financial year for each approval proposal when a Ministerial Statement is issued under s.45(8) of the EP Act.

The application of these fees started on 1 July 2023 and the department has invoiced more than 350 proponents with the applicable fee required.

The department is continuing to investigate a large number of historical proposals to assess their applicability for the requirement to pay a fee under these new regulations.





Say
YES to
reusable
cups!



Appendices

Appendix A: Legislation

Legislation administered by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation as at 30 June 2024

Carbon Rights Act 2003

Contaminated Sites Act 2003

Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947

Environmental Protection Act 1986

Environmental Protection Amendment Act 2020

Environmental Protection (Landfill) Levy Act 1998

Litter Act 1979 (the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is the agency principally assisting the Minister for Environment in the administration of this Act assisted by the Keep Australia Beautiful Council [Western Australia])

Metropolitan Arterial Drainage Act 1982

Metropolitan Water Authority Act 1982

Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909

National Environmental Protection Council (Western Australia) Act 1996

Plumbers Licensing Act 1995 (except Part 5A which is administered by the Minister for Commerce principally assisted by the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety) – alternative citations are *Water Services Coordination Act 1995* and *Water Licensing Act 1995*

Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 (the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is the agency principally assisting the Minister for Environment in the administration of this Act assisted by the Waste Authority)

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Act 2007 (the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is the agency principally assisting the Minister for Environment in the administration of this Act assisted by the Waste Authority)

Water Agencies (Powers) Act 1984

Water Agencies Restructure (Transitional and Consequential Provisions) Act 1995

Water Corporations Act 1995

Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards Act 2006

Water Resources Legislation Amendment Act 2007

Water Services Act 2012

Water Services Coordination Act 1995

Water Services Licensing Act 1995 (also called *Plumbers Licensing Act 1995*) (except Part 5A, which the Department of Commerce administers)

Waterways Conservation Act 1976

Regulations administered by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation as at 30 June 2024

Clean Air (Determination of Air Impurities in Gases Discharged to the Atmosphere) Regulations 1983	Environmental Protection (Kwinana) (Atmospheric Wastes) Regulations 1992	Environmental Protection Regulations 1987
Contaminated Sites Regulations 2006	Environmental Protection (Metal Coating) Regulations 2001	Litter Regulations 1981
Country Areas Water Supply (Clearing Licence) Regulations 1981	Environmental Protection (NEPM-NPI) Regulations 1998	Noise Abatement (Noise Labelling of Equipment) Regulations (No. 2) 1985
Environmental Protection (Abattoirs) Regulations 2001	Environmental Protection (NEPM-UPM) Regulations 2013	Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards Regulations 2000
Environmental Protection (Abrasive Blasting) Regulations 1998	Environmental Protection (Noise) Regulations 1997	Rights in Water and Irrigation Regulations 2000
Environmental Protection (Bilateral Agreements) Regulations 2021	Environmental Protection (Packaged Fertiliser) Regulations 2010	Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (Container Deposit Scheme) Regulations 2019
Environmental Protection (Clearing of Native Vegetation) Regulations 2004	Environmental Protection (Petrol) Regulations 1999	Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Regulations 2008
Environmental Protection (Concrete Batching and Cement Product Manufacturing) Regulations 1998	Environmental Protection (Plastic Bags) Regulations 2018	Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery (e-waste) Regulations 2024
Environmental Protection (Controlled Waste) Regulations 2004	Environmental Protection (Prohibited Plastics and Balloons) Regulations 2018	Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Regulations 2008
Environmental Protection (Cost Recovery) Regulations 2021	Environmental Protection (Recovery of Vapours from the Transfer of Organic Liquids) Regulations 1995	Water Agencies (Entry Warrant) Regulations 1985
Environmental Protection (Fibre Reinforced Plastics) Regulations 1998	Environmental Protection (Rural Landfill) Regulations 2002	Water Agencies (Infringements) Regulations 1994
Environmental Protection (Goldfields Residential Areas) (Sulfur Dioxide) Regulations 2003	Environmental Protection (Solid Fuel Heater and Firewood) Regulations 2018	Water Corporations (Transitional Provisions) Regulations 2013
	Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharges) Regulations 2004	Water Services Regulations 2013
		Water Services (Water Corporations Charges) Regulations 2014
		Waterways Conservation Regulations 1981

Other subsidiary legislation affecting our activities

For all other subsidiary legislation including bylaws, notices, declarations, proclamations, approvals, exemptions, orders, policy, pollution control areas, vesting orders, irrigation districts, standards and guidelines, please visit www.legislation.wa.gov.au.

Other key legislation affecting our activities

In the performance of our functions, the department complied with the following laws:

- Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972*
- Auditor General Act 2006*
- Corruption and Crime Commission Act 2003*
- Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)*
- Disability Services Act 1993*
- Equal Opportunity Act 1984*
- Financial Management Act 2006*
- Freedom of Information Act 1992*
- Government Employees Housing Act 1964*
- Industrial Relations Act 1979*
- National Environmental Protection Council Act 1997 (Cth)*
- Long Service Leave Act 1958*
- Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993*
- Native Title Act 1993 (Cth)*
- Procurement Act 2020*
- Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003*
- Public Sector Management Act 1994*
- Salaries and Allowances Act 1975*
- State Records Act 2000*
- Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*
- Work Health and Safety Act 2020*

Appendix B: Shortened forms

Term	Definition
AWEAG	Aboriginal Water and Environment Advisory Group
C&D	construction and demolition
C&I	commercial and industrial
Contaminated Sites Act	<i>Contaminated Sites Act 2003</i>
CWSP	Community Water Supplies Partnership
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
DEMIRS	Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
department	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
DMA	decision-making authority
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i>
EPA	Environmental Protection Authority
ERRF	Environmental Revegetation and Rehabilitation Fund
EV	electric vehicle
FOGO	food organics and garden organics

Term	Definition
FOI	freedom of information
FOI Act	<i>Freedom of Information Act 1992</i>
GL	gigalitres
ha	hectares
JTSI	Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation
KABC	Keep Australia Beautiful Council
KPI	key performance indicator
LGA	local government authority
MAC	Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation
MAR	Mandatory Auditor's Report
MSW	municipal solid waste
RtR	Roads to Reuse
SCWS	Strategic Community Water Supply
SERS	<i>Sectoral emissions reduction strategy for Western Australia</i>
WA	Western Australia
WALGA	Western Australia Local Government Association
waste strategy	<i>Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030</i>
WIR	Water Information Reporting

Appendix C: References

BoM (Bureau of Meteorology) (2024a) [Western Australia in summer 2023-24](#), BoM website, accessed 6 September 2024.

BoM (2024b) [Western Australia in 2023](#), BoM website, Australian Government, accessed 4 September 2024.

CSIRO and BoM (2022) [State of the Climate 2022](#), CSIRO and BoM, Australian Government, accessed 4 September 2024.

Caputi N, Kangas M, Denham A, Feng M, Pearce A, Hetzel Y and Chandrapavan A (2016) 'Management adaptation of invertebrate fisheries to an extreme marine heat wave event at a global warming hot spot'. *Ecology and Evolution* 6(11):3583–3593. doi: [10.1002/ece3.2137](#).

Le Nohaïc M, Ross CL, Cornwall CE, Comeau S, Lowe R, McCulloch MT and Schoepf V (2017) 'Marine heatwave causes unprecedented regional mass bleaching of thermally resistant corals in northwestern Australia', *Scientific Reports* 7(1), Article 14999. doi: [10.1038/s41598-017-14794-y](#).

NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) National Centers for Environmental Information (2024) [January 2024 Global Climate Report](#), NOAA NCEI website, accessed 4 September 2024.

Teasdale N and Panegyres PK (2023) 'Climate change in Western Australia and its impact on human health', *Journal of Climate Change and Health*, 12(1) Article 100243. doi: [10.1016/j.joclim.2023.100243](#).

Contact us

Head office

Prime House

8 Davidson Terrace
Joondalup WA 6027

Locked Bag 10
Joondalup DC
WA 6919

Ph: 08 6364 7000
Fax: 08 6364 7001
info@dwer.wa.gov.au
wa.gov.au/dwer



EPA office

66 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000
(By appointment only)
Ph: 08 6364 7000
info@dwer.wa.gov.au

Regional offices

Swan Avon region

► Victoria Park regional office

7 Ellam Street
Victoria Park WA 6100

Ph: 08 6250 8000
ellamreception@dwer.wa.gov.au



► Swan measurement office

105 Kew Street
Welshpool WA 6106

Ph: 08 9355 6237
swanavonmeasurement@dwer.wa.gov.au

Kwinana Peel region

► Kwinana Peel regional office

107 Breakwater Parade
Mandurah WA 6210

PO Box 332
Mandurah WA 6210
Ph: 08 9550 4222
peel@dwer.wa.gov.au



South West region

► Bunbury regional office

71 McCombe Road
Bunbury WA 6230

PO Box 261
Bunbury WA 6231
Ph: 08 9726 4111
bunbury.admin@dwer.wa.gov.au



► Geographe Capes district office

Suite 1A/72
Duchess Street
Busselton WA 6280

PO Box 269
Busselton WA 6280
Ph: 08 9781 0111
busselton.admin@dwer.wa.gov.au



► Warren Blackwood district office

c/o Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions
Brain Street
Manjimup WA 6258
Ph: 08 9726 4111
bunbury.admin@dwer.wa.gov.au

Goldfields region

► Kalgoorlie regional office

32 Brookman Street
Kalgoorlie WA 6430
(co-located with Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions office)

Locked Bag 10
Joondalup DC WA 6919
Ph: 08 9000 1806
info@dwer.wa.gov.au

Mid West Gascoyne region

► Geraldton regional office

20 Gregory Street
Geraldton WA 6530
PO Box 73
Geraldton WA 6531

Ph: 08 9965 7400
midwestgascoyne@dwer.wa.gov.au

► Carnarvon regional office

211 Robinson Street
Carnarvon WA 6701
PO Box 81
Carnarvon WA 6701

Ph: 08 9965 7400
midwestgascoyne@dwer.wa.gov.au

North West region

► Karratha regional office

The Quarter
Level 2, 20 Sharpe Avenue
Karratha WA 6714
Locked Bag 10
Joondalup DC WA 6919
Ph: 08 9144 0200
karratha@dwer.wa.gov.au

► Kununurra regional office

27 Victoria Highway
Kununurra WA 6743
PO Box 625
Kununurra WA 6743
Ph: 08 9166 4100
kununurra@dwer.wa.gov.au



South Coast region

► Esperance regional office

92 Dempster Street
Esperance WA 6450
PO Box 234
Esperance WA 6450
info@dwer.wa.gov.au

► Albany regional office

5 Bevan Street
Albany WA 6330
PO Box 525
Albany WA 6331
Ph: 08 9841 0100
southcoast@dwer.wa.gov.au



Feedback form

Your feedback on our 2023–24 annual report would be greatly appreciated. We will use your comments to help improve the clarity and presentation of our publications. Thank you for your input.

- Did the report help you understand the department, its purpose, services and performance?

not at all	not really	somewhat	yes	absolutely
------------	------------	----------	-----	------------
- Did you find the design and presentation functional and effective?

not at all	not really	somewhat	yes	absolutely
------------	------------	----------	-----	------------
- Was the report clear, concise and easy to read?

not at all	not really	somewhat	yes	absolutely
------------	------------	----------	-----	------------
- Did you find the structural format of the report simple and logical?

not at all	not really	somewhat	yes	absolutely
------------	------------	----------	-----	------------

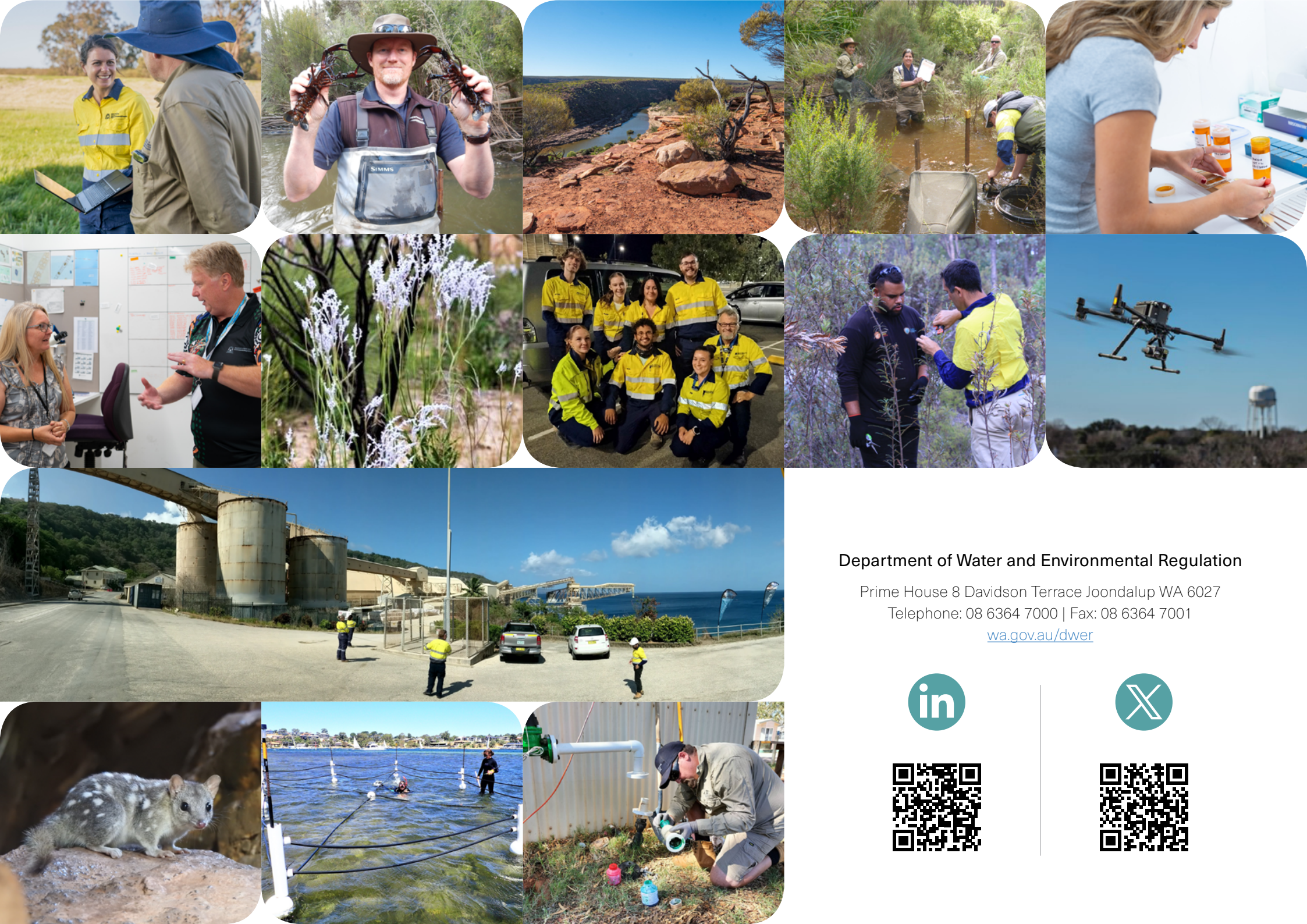
Please return completed feedback forms to:

Email: dwer.publishing@dwer.wa.gov.au

or

Mail to:
Corporate Communications
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Locked Bag 10, Joondalup DC WA 6919





Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Prime House 8 Davidson Terrace Joondalup WA 6027

Telephone: 08 6364 7000 | Fax: 08 6364 7001

wa.gov.au/dwer

