



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Water and Environmental Regulation**

Strategic plan

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Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

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The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation was established by the Government of Western Australia on 1 July 2017. It is a result of the amalgamation of the Department of Environment Regulation, Department of Water and the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority. This publication may contain references to previous government departments and programs.

Please email the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to clarify any specific information.

This publication is available on our website or for those with special needs it can be made available in alternative formats such as audio, large print, or Braille.



We acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation of the land upon which we live and work 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 bringing it to life on Whadjuk Noongar Boodja*. We seek to listen, learn and genuinely engage and build strong partnerships. We aim to provide sustainable opportunities for Aboriginal people within our workforce and through our business.

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

*The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's head office, Prime House, is located in Joondalup, on Whadjuk Noongar Boodja. The above Acknowledgement of Country was endorsed by the department's Aboriginal Water and Environmental Advisory Group.



As Western Australia's primary water and environmental regulator, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation has a responsibility to be an influential and future-focused organisation.

Our Vision

Our vision is for a low-carbon Western Australia with a healthy environment and secure water resources for future generations.

Our Mission

Waste: We act to reduce the harmful impact of waste and create a low waste circular economy.

Climate: We act to reduce emissions, mitigate climate change impacts and build greater environmental and community resilience.

Water: We act to ensure our water resources meet the needs of the community, ecosystems and economic development.

Environment: We act to make sure that environmental values are protected, and that development is sustainable.



How we work



We are fair and committed



We value Aboriginal knowledge and cultural advice



We are guided by good science



We are forward looking



We embrace new technology and new practices



We are transparent



We engage with all and build trusted relationships

The Challenge

The environment of Western Australia (WA) is under pressure from climate change, development and people. These combined pressures demand a strong commitment to sustainable development principles, effective regulatory practice and long-term strategic approaches. The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is up to the challenge – working with our partners to deliver practical and timely solutions.

Our Strategic Goal

Outcomes

We will improve our regulatory capability

- Our regulatory approach is integrated and effective, and ensures healthy natural systems and environments.
- Our legislation is contemporary and outcomes focused.
- Our systems and processes are streamlined; enabling efficient, effective assessments and approvals, and proactive management of risks.
- Our workforce is a high-performing one where reform and continual improvement are embedded in our regulatory culture.
- Government and industry decisions and practices contain and mitigate cumulative environmental impacts.

We will better manage the environment

- Our society recognises and plans for risks to water security and flooding, with a focus on climate change impacts.
- WA is a sustainable, low-waste, circular economy which protects the environment and community from the impacts of waste.
- WA is harnessing its innovation and wealth of natural and mineral resources while adapting to climate change and a transition to net-zero emissions.

We will pursue strategic solutions to our big environmental challenges

- Our perspective is holistic and guides our regulatory activities to achieve landscape-wide change.
- Through a regional and sectoral approach we improve water quality in our oceans, rivers and estuaries, strive for net gains in native vegetation, improve outcomes for native fauna, and work towards a low-carbon economy.
- Both community and industry benefit from consultative planning around key challenges.



Minister for Environment; Climate Action



Minister for Water



both

Strategies



Develop and implement new water resource legislation to provide for sustainable water management in the face of climate change.



Engage and lead in the development and implementation of Streamline WA initiatives.



Focus on improving the approval processes and timelines for industries that promote sustainable development.



Improve coordination of State and Commonwealth environmental impact assessments (including offsets) to achieve faster assessments and better environmental outcomes.



Integrate the regulation of waste operations to focus on both protecting the environment and reducing waste generation.



Ban e-waste disposal to landfill by 2024.



Embed approaches to regulating, monitoring and reducing greenhouse gas emissions from development.



Implement multi-agency training approaches to strengthen capability.



Build partnerships and establish systems for capturing and responding to Aboriginal knowledge in decision-making.



Continue to implement the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund.



Maintain continuous long-term monitoring of the environment, including water resources.



Implement Western Australia's Waste Strategy, and programs such as the State Waste Infrastructure Plan and WA's Plan for Plastics.



Lead and oversee a coordinated approach to climate change, including the WA Climate Science Program, WA Climate Policy and an action plan for climate resilience for WA.



Finalise and implement the Gngangara, Fitzroy and Derby Water Allocation Plans.



Implement the Native Vegetation Policy, with a particular focus on regional planning.



Review and update Water Allocation Plans in areas where climate change and demand pressures are projected to be most acute.



Progress the second phase of Waterwise Perth.



Work with local government and planning authorities to ensure water resources are better managed and protected.



Develop strategic guidance and systems in areas of high development pressure and environmental risk that enable cumulative impacts to be embedded in the department's decision making and advice.



Lead the development of public sector net-zero transition planning and sectoral emissions reduction strategies.



Work in partnership to promote and deliver emissions reduction targets, with a focus on avoiding and reducing emissions.



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