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APPENDICES

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Inquiry Into The Environment Protection Authority

Preamble

Our promise to Victoria at the election was to respond to concerns about how our environment and our industries are managed together to protect the health of Victorians.

We promised to look closely at the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to establish how we can develop the authority to ensure it can protect public health, while protecting our precious Victorian environment for future generations.

Since the EPA was first established, our population has changed and so have our challenges. Victoria’s population is expected to double by 2050. Increases in resource consumption, traffic and waste volumes will follow. Demand for housing and urban density will continue bringing communities into closer proximity with potentially contaminated land, industrial areas and with each other. We need to better protect Victorians from exposure to chemicals and pollution than we unfortunately sometimes have in the past. And we need to ensure that the principle of

environmental justice is adhered to. We all have the right to participate in making decisions on our shared environment, and share in the benefits it provides.

Victoria’s environment protection approaches need to be ready to deal with the range of human and environmental impacts and challenges we expect to face in the future.

The review will examine whether the EPA has the right powers, right tools and proper resourcing to ensure it is agile and efficient and can tackle the environmental challenges of today

and tomorrow.

Undertaking a public inquiry will ensure we are setting the EPA up for success – to be able to respond to the justifiable public health concerns arising from contaminated sites, water quality, air pollution and community concerns such as exposure to asbestos.

To ask if the EPA is our environmental protector or regulator or both.

In undertaking this inquiry, the government will seek the advice of a ministerial advisory committee on the EPA’s most appropriate role in public health issues related to land, air and water pollution, and in protecting our environment. It will also examine how to best prevent contamination of sites as well as the EPA’s ability to respond to day-to-day environmental issues.

The ministerial advisory committee will seek the views of the community, industry and workers in related industries as well as those of other relevant stakeholders.

From this review, I expect to see recommendations about the way the EPA can execute the right powers, duties and functions to achieve sustainable health for our State.

**Hon Lisa Neville, MP**

#### Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water

Establishment of a Ministerial Advisory Committee to conduct inquiry

The Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water (Minister) establishes an independent ministerial advisory committee (MAC) to be known as the ‘Environment Protection Authority Inquiry MAC’ by these terms of reference to conduct a public inquiry into the EPA.

Scope of inquiry

The inquiry will be conducted by the MAC which will inquire into, report on, and present any recommendations and/or options that it considers appropriate in relation to the matters specified below. These are to be considered in the following order of priority:

1. the EPA’s appropriate role in relation to public health issues, including at least: community concerns such as exposure to asbestos, chemicals and other pollutants; the prevention and management of site contamination, air quality, and water quality in rivers and other waterways;
2. the Victorian community’s and industry’s expectations of the EPA as its environmental regulator;
3. the EPA’s appropriate role in protecting the environment;
4. the ability of the EPA to ensure that the principle of environmental justice is adhered to, the environment is protected for the benefit of the community, and members of the community can be meaningfully involved in, and access fair treatment through, environmental regulation;
5. the ability of the EPA’s current governance structures and funding arrangements to enable it to effectively and efficiently discharge its powers, perform its duties and implement its required functions;
6. the scope and adequacy of the EPA’s statutory powers, and the effectiveness and efficiency of the suite of tools available to and utilised by the EPA, in enabling protection of the Victorian community and the environment, particularly in light of recent, new and emerging risks and issues; and
7. any other matter reasonably incidental to these above matters.

In conducting this inquiry, the MAC will consider the best way to combine environmental protection with economic viability and growing sustainable jobs in Victoria, including through improving regulatory efficiency and minimising regulatory burden. The MAC will also seek the views of the community, industry and workers in related industries, local government and Victorian government agencies, as well as those of other relevant stakeholders.

Functions of the Ministerial Advisory Committee

The MAC will conduct the review, operating from **1 June 2015** to **31 March 2016**, with the following functions:

#### Conduct the inquiry, including:

* 1. consulting with interested parties (including the community, industry and workers in related industries, and Victorian government agencies)
  2. seeking and reviewing submissions
  3. commissioning necessary advice and information through its secretariat

1. Provide the “public face” for the inquiry
2. Through its secretariat, oversee inquiry administrative and organisational arrangements
3. Provide written report to Minister on its findings, making recommendations and/or options as appropriate
4. Request advice from, and refers matters to, the Government Reference Group
5. Request advice from the Community and Industry Advisory Group.

Accountability

The MAC will report to the Minister.

A diagram of the overall governance structure for the inquiry is provided.

Reporting arrangements

The MAC is to provide a written report to the Minister by **31 March 2016**. The Minister intends to publicly release the report and a response to its findings and recommendations on behalf of the Victorian Government.

Appointment

MAC members are appointed by instrument by the Minister. The MAC comprises three members.

The Minister will appoint one member as chairperson and one member as deputy chairperson.

Term of appointment

A member of the MAC holds office for the period specified in the instrument of his or her appointment.

EPA and Environment Protection Board (EPB) contribution

During the course of its review, the MAC must consult with the EPA Chairman and the EPB members for advice on:

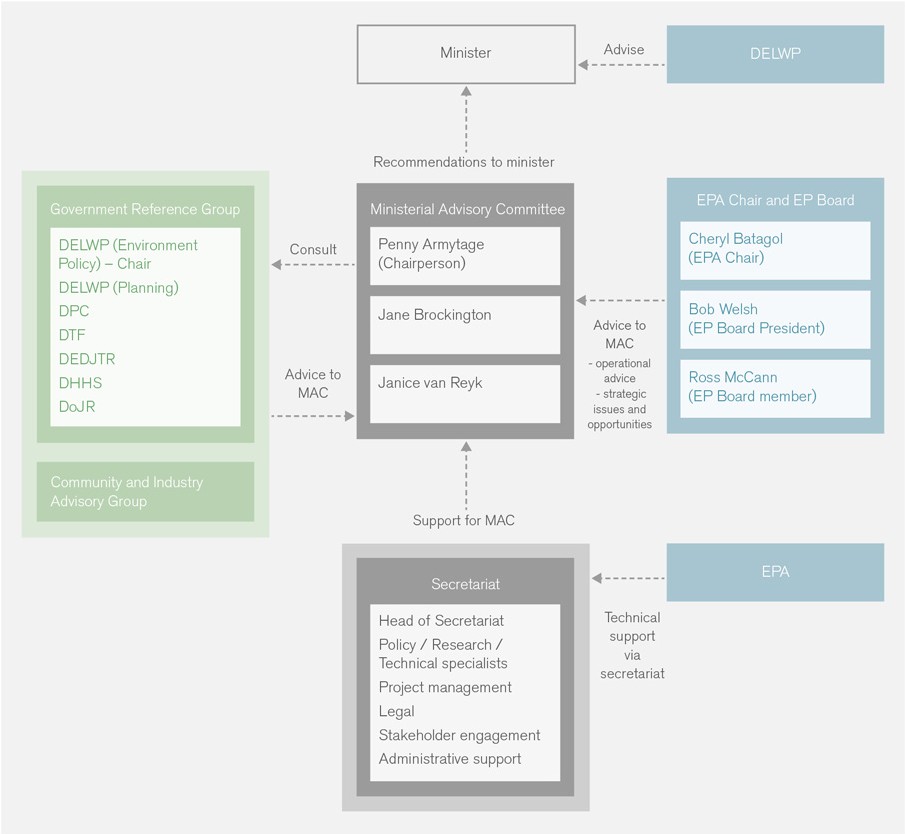
* strategic issues and opportunities for EPA; and
* the operational implications of reform options for EPA.

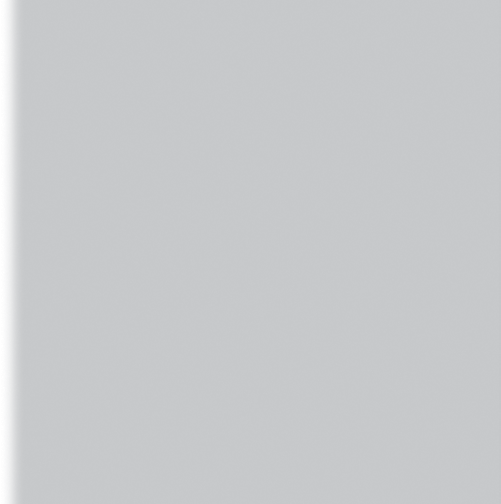
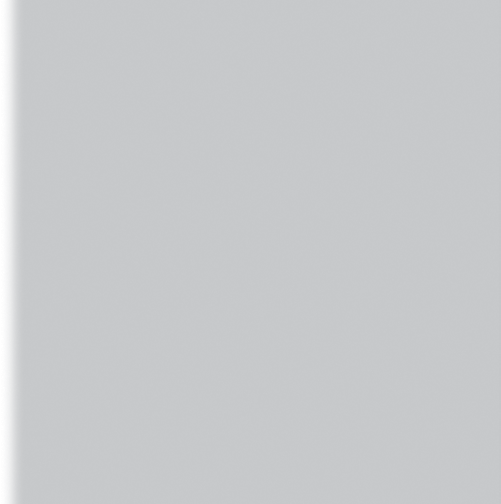
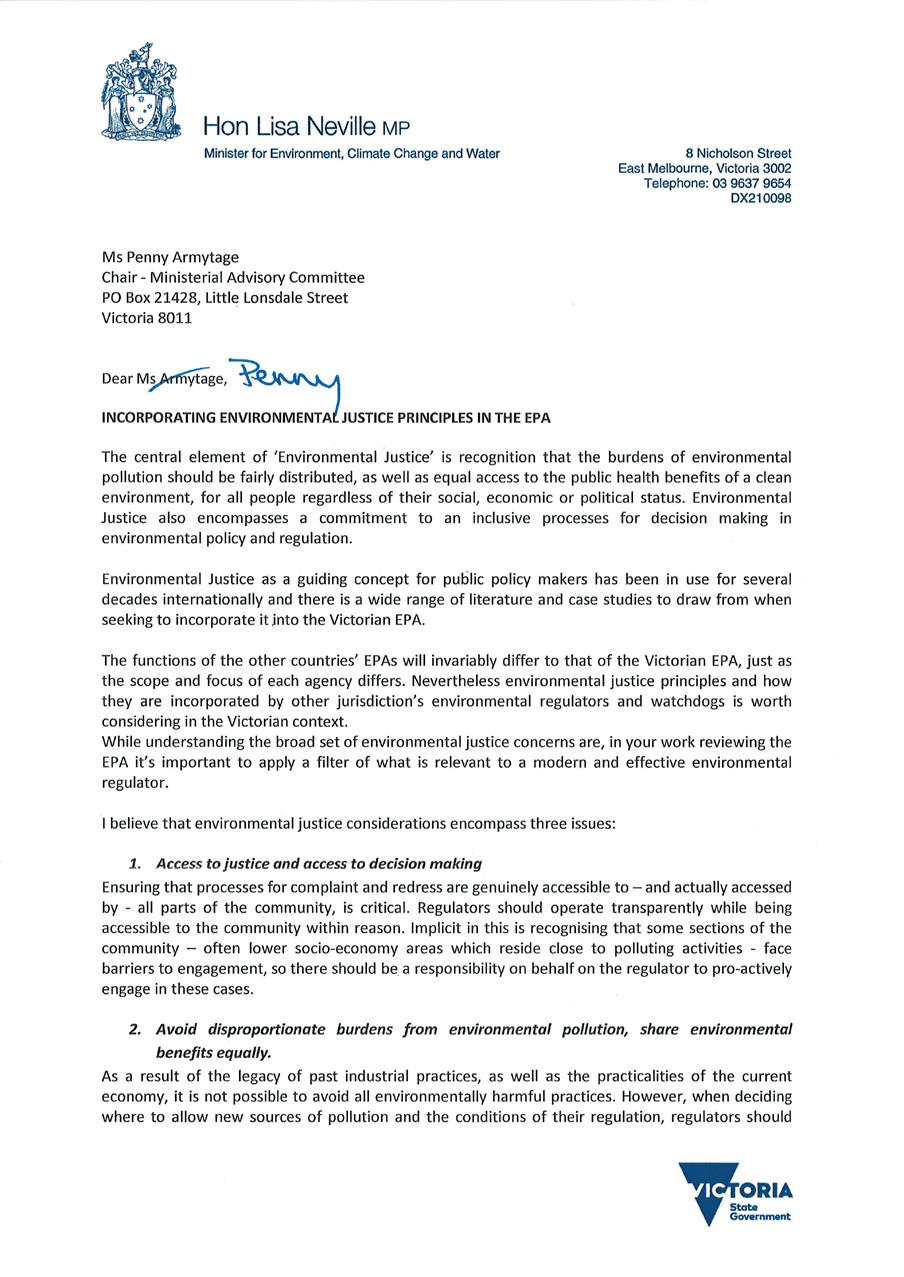
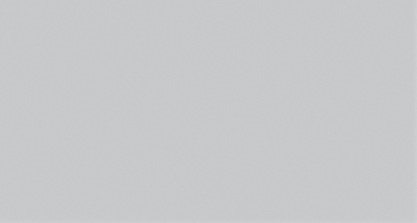
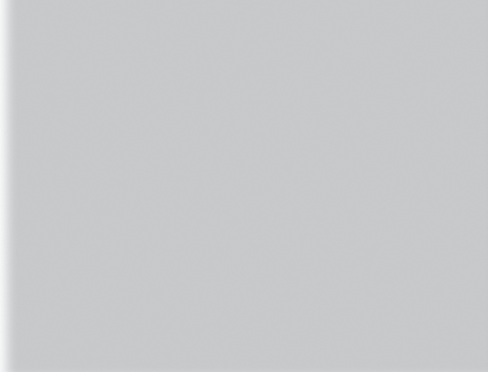
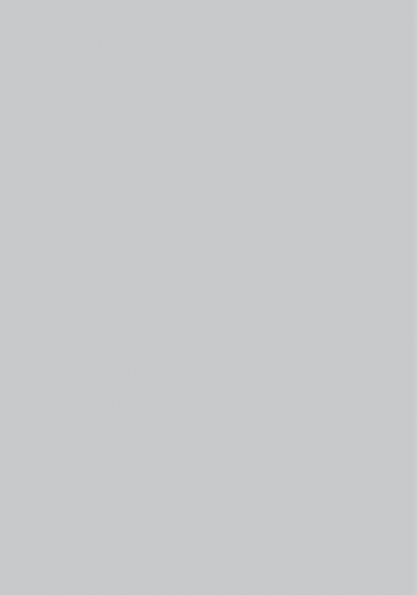
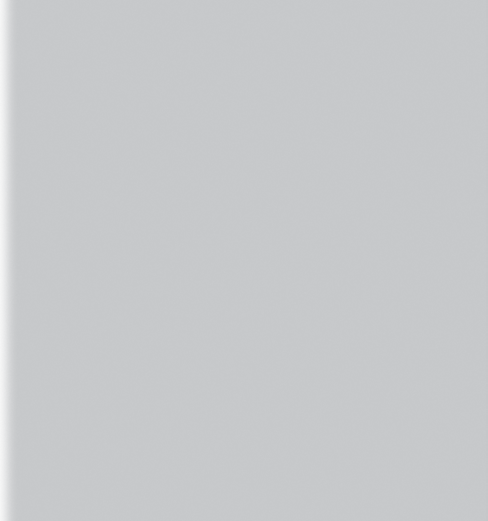
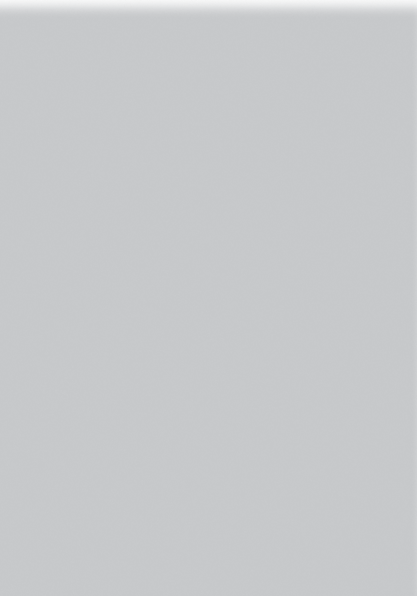
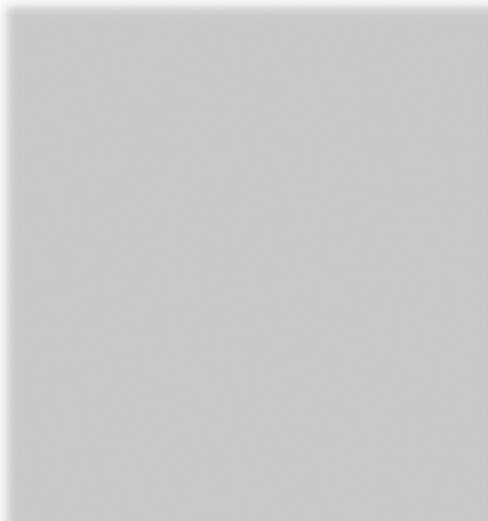
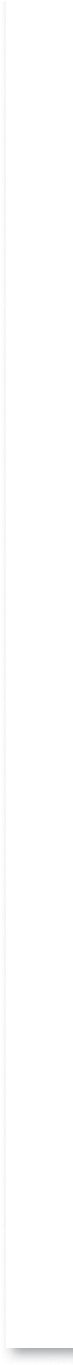
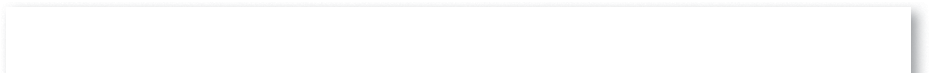
The EPA Chairman and EPB members will provide this and any other advice to the MAC in response to requests from the MAC.

Government Reference Group

The MAC will be supported by a Government Reference Group, to be chaired by the Executive Director Environment Policy, DELWP, and with representatives from the Planning Division, DELWP; Department of Premier and Cabinet; Department of Treasury and Finance; Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources; Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Justice and Regulation. The Government Reference Group will provide advice to the MAC in response to requests from the MAC.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE





LIST OF SUBMISSIONS (BY CATEGORY)

ACADEMICS

Centre for Aquatic Pollution Identification and Management

Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation – Federation University Eric Windholz – Faculty of Law – Monash University

Monash Business School – Monash University Roger Hawthorn – Swinburne University

Waterway Ecosystem Research Group – University of Melbourne

COMMUNITY GROUPS AND NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Australian Clean Air Action Network Beach Patrol Australia

Bellarine Landcare Group

Bendigo and District Environment Council Brooklyn Community Representative Group Brooklyn Residents Action Group Community Over Mining

Community and Public Sector Union Croydon Conservation Society Cultivating Community

Doctors for the Environment

Drysdale Clifton Springs Community Association Environment Victoria

Environmental Justice Australia Friends of Mallacoota

Friends of Steele Creek

Glen Eira Environment Group Green Wedges Coalition Gippsland Environment Group

Hume Residents Airport Action Group Kanagulk Landcare Group

Lawyers for Forests Lighter Footprints

Maribyrnong Truck Action Group Nelson Coastcare

Our Korumburra

Residents Against Toxic Waste in the South East – part 1 Residents Against Toxic Waste in the South East – part 2 Save our Suburbs

Stop the Bulla Dust Stop the Tip

Surf Coast Air Action

Terminate Tullamarine Toxic Dump Action Group Trust for Nature

Victorian Marine Animal Defence Conversation Society Voices of the Valley

Werribee River Association

Wind Industry Reform Victoria Inc Yarra Riverkeeper Association

INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

AGL Energy Australian Paper BP Australia Pty Ltd Cardno Victoria

Confidential submission 1

Confidential submission 2 EcoEnergy Ventures Environmental Auditors Fonterra Australia Garden City Fuel Station Hg Recoveries Pty Ltd

Ileowl Pty Ltd TA Greenchip Recycling Landserv Pty Ltd

Orica Australia Pacific Hydro Power-Less Qenos

Southern Ocean Mariculture Suez Environment Transpacific Industries Trustpower Australia

Viva Energy

INDIVIDUALS

Anonymous – 3000

Anonymous – 3011

Anonymous – 3016

Anonymous – 3025

Anonymous – 3032

Anonymous – 3036

Anonymous – 3049

Anonymous – 3070

Anonymous – 3095

Anonymous – 3121

Anonymous – 3123

Anonymous – 3149

Anonymous – 3207

Anonymous – 3223

Anonymous – 3342

Anonymous – 3498

Anonymous – 3630

Anonymous – 3691

Anonymous – 3810

Anonymous – 3814

Anonymous – 3927

Anonymous – 3945

Anonymous – 3960

Anonymous – 5076

Anonymous 1 – 3012

Anonymous 2 – 3012

Anonymous 1 – postcode not supplied Anonymous 2 – postcode not supplied Anonymous 3 – postcode not supplied Anonymous 4 – postcode not supplied Arthur, Margaret – 3401

Bull, Lorraine – 3840 Caine, Paul – 3163 Confidential submission 1

Confidential submission 2

Confidential submission 3

Cooper, Russell – postcode not supplied Crump, Frederick – 3931

Cumming, John – 3229 Earl, Nina – 3195

Eley, Damian – 3141 Ellinger, Rosalind – 3223

Farr, Lindsay – postcode not supplied Fehring, Max – 3568

Fiedler, Stefan – 3000 Flann, Dr Elizabeth – 3196 Gleeson, Regina – 3230 Gordon, James – 3182 Greacen, Dr Jane – 3909 Joy, Robert – 7252

Just, Alan – 3364 Laird, Andrew – 3000

Lewis-Jones, Tony – postcode not supplied McCubbin, Jo – 3850

Mitchell, Peter – 3225 Munro, Dave – 3289 Musil, Dan – 3840 Nugent, Michael – 3187 Oates, Jim – 3122 Olsen, Neil – 3950 Pearce, Dr Dora – 3350 Penfold, Bob – 3222 Penrose, Ian – 3113 Pickin, Dr Joe – 3440

Puddy, Lola and Davis, Mary – 3660 Radford, Wendy and Bardsley, John – 3551 Ryan, Patrick – 3352

Serrurier, Alex – 3352

Sevenson, Andrew – postcode not supplied Sisely, Dr Diane – postcode not supplied Speechley, Catherine and Leigh – 3764 Stanley, Professor John – 3937

Tsekouras, Arthur – 3102

Walter, Clare and Walter, Professor Lou – 3123

Ware, Melissa – 3215 Weller, Sally – 3056 Whitla, Jean – 3690

Williams, Rod and Willians, Alix – 3825 Yates, Alison – 3197

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Bass Coast Shire

Baw Baw Shire Council Bayside City Council Borough of Queenscliffe Brimbank City Council City of Boroondara

City of Greater Bendigo City of Port Phillip

City of Wodonga Corangamite Shire Council Hobsons Bay City Council Hume City Council Kingston City Council Knox City Council

Latrobe City Council Maribyrnong City Council Moira Shire Council Moreland City Council Mornington Peninsula Shire

Mount Alexander Shire Council Moyne Shire Council

Pyrenees Shire Council Shire of Campaspe

Southern Grampians Shire Council Surf Coast Shire Council Warrnambool Shire Council Wellington Shire Council

Yarra Ranges Council

PEAK BODIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Australian Contaminated Land Consultants Association Australian Environment Business Network

Australian Industry Group

Australian Industry Group – Waste Industry Alliance Victoria Australian Organics Recycling Association

Cement Concretes and Aggregates Australia Clean Energy Council

Energy Supply Association of Australia Law Institute of Victoria

Minerals Council of Australia – Victoria Municipal Association of Victoria Planning Institute of Australia – Victoria

Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association Property Council of Australia

Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce Victorian Employers’ Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Victorian Farmers Federation Victorian Trades Hall Council

Victorian Waste Management Association Victorian Water Industry Association

Waste Management Association of Australia

WATER SECTOR

City West Water Coliban Water

Confidential submission 1 Gippsland Water Goulburn Valley Water Lower Murray Water Melbourne Water

North East Water South East Water Yarra Valley Water

STATUTORY AUTHORITIES

Confidential submission 1

Confidential submission 2

Confidential submission 3 Emergency Management Victoria Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board

North East Catchment Management Authority Wimmera Catchment Management Authority



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SHORTENED FORMS, GLOSSARY AND REFERENCES

SHORTENED FORMS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **CCS** | carbon capture and storage |
| **CES** | Chief Environmental Scientist |
| **CEO** | Chief Executive Officer |
| **CHO** | Chief Health Officer |
| **CSG** | Coal seam gas |
| **CSIRO** | Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation |
| **CUTEP** | Clean Up To The Extent Practicable |
| **DEDJTR** | Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources |
| **DELWP** | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning |
| **DHHS** | Department of Health and Human Services |
| **EHO** | Environmental Health Officer |
| **EMV** | Emergency Management Victoria |
| **EPA** | Environment Protection Authority |
| **EREP** | Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans |
| **ERR** | Earth Resources Regulation |
| **e-waste** | electronic waste |
| **GIS** | geographic information system |
| **GQRUZ** | Groundwater Quality Restricted Use Zone |
| **Hazmat** | Hazardous Materials |
| **M&I** | Municipal and Industrial |
| **MPA** | Metropolitan Planning Authority |
| **MWh** | Megawatt hour |
| **NEPM** | National Environment Protection Measures |
| **NEPM (AAQ)** | National Environment Protection Measures (Ambient Air Quality) |
| **OHS** | Occupational Health and Safety |
| **PFOS** | perfluorooctanesulfonic acid |
| **PIW** | Prescribed Industrial Waste |
| **PM10** | PM10 is particulate matter 10 micrometers or less in diameter |
| **PM2.5** | PM2.5 is particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter |
| **SEPP** | State Environment Protection Policy |
| **TSFs** | Tailings storage facilities |
| **VCAT** | Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal |
| **VPPs** | Victoria Planning Provisions |
| **WMP** | Waste Management Policy |

LEGISLATION

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title | Shortened Form |
| ***Climate Change Act 2010*** |  |
| ***Emergency Management Act 2013*** |  |
| ***Environment Protection Act 1970*** | EP Act |
| * Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises and exemptions) regulations |  |
| * State Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality Management) | SEPP (AQM) |
| * State Environment Protection Policy (Prevention and Management of Contamination of Land) |  |
| * State Environment Protection Policy (Waters of Victoria) |  |
| * Waste Management (Siting Design and Management of Landfills) Policy | WMP (Landfill) |
| * Best Practice for Environment Management guideline, Siting, Design, Operation and Rehabilitation of Landfills | Landfill BEPM |
| ***Financial Management Act 1994*** |  |
| ***Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*** | MRSD Act |
| ***Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*** | OHS Act |
| ***Planning and Environment Act 1987*** | P&E Act |
| ***Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (NSW)** | POEO Act |
| ***Public Health and Well Being Act 2008*** | PHWB Act |
| ***Transport Integration Act 2010*** |  |

EPA REGULATORY INSTRUMENTS

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| Instrument | Description |
| **clean up notice** | Clean up notices (CUN) are issued under section 62A of the *Environment Protection Act 1970*. They aim to prevent further contamination and impact on beneficial uses through removal of waste, undertaking clean-up activities, ongoing management of pollution, altered handling, storage or location of industrial or prescribed industrial waste. |
| **licence** | An EPA licence is required for all scheduled premises, unless the premises are exempted in the Environment Protection (Scheduled Premises and Exemptions) Regulations 2007. Licences contain standard conditions that aim to control the operation of the premises so that there is no adverse effect on the environment. These conditions address areas such as waste acceptance and treatment, air and water discharges, and noise and odour. |
| **penalty infringement notice** | A penalty infringement notice (PIN) is used by EPA as a way of dealing with common breaches of the law where the impacts are not considered serious enough to warrant prosecution. |
| **pollution abatement notice** | Pollution abatement notices are issued under section 31A of the *Environment Protection Act 1970*. They aim to prevent further occurrence of pollution or potential environmental risk through installation of risk controls and changes to on-site processes and practices. |
| **remedial notice** | A remedial notice is a written statutory direction that requires, by law, that  a notice recipient undertake works or activities as detailed in the notice. For example, the direction may be to conduct a clean-up, stop works, install controls, or change a process or activity. |
| **scheduled premises** | The Scheduled Premises Regulations define ‘scheduled premises’, specifying which activities require a works approval, licence, financial assurance, payment of landfill levies and/or payment of environment protection levies. |
| **works approval** | A works approval is a document issued by EPA permitting, subject to certain conditions, the construction of a plant, the installation of equipment or the modification of a process. A works approval is required for industrial and waste management activities that have the potential for significant environmental impact. |
| **enforceable undertaking** | An enforceable undertaking is a binding agreement between a person and the Environment Protection Authority. By entering the agreement, the person  undertakes to carry out certain activities in connection with the matter relating to a breach or alleged breach of the *Environment Protection Act 1970*. |

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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| Term | Definition |
| **administrative office** | A public service agency established as a discrete office related to a Department by an Order made under s. 11 of the *Public Administration Act 2004* by virtue of Order is by Governor in Council. |
| **agent of change principle** | A principle as used in land use planning that states that if there is a conflict between existing and proposed land uses, the existing land use should have primacy. |
| **ambient (air)** | An unconfined portion of the atmosphere; also open air or surrounding air. |
| **amenity** | Is a broad concept used in land use planning that could include character and appearance of building and works, proximity to retail facilities, quality of infrastructure and absence of noise, unsightliness or offensive odours. It has been said to embrace all the features, benefits and advantages inherent in the environment. |
| **beneficial use** | Uses or values of the environment which are conducive to or declared to be of public benefit in a State Environment Protection policy. |
| **brownfields land** | Land previously used, (often for industrial purposes), which is vacant, derelict or contaminated. Brownfield development sites are often sites for urban-renewal projects and typically require remediation work before any new development goes ahead. |
| **civil penalties** | A financial penalty imposed as restitution for wrongdoing. |
| **civil remedies** | Orders enforcing a duty by requiring a person to take action or restrain from taking action compensate for any loss. |
| **diffuse source pollutions** | Pollution discharged over a wide area (air, land or water), not from one specific location or point source. |
| **duty holder** | A person responsible for complying with a requirement. |
| **earned autonomy licence program** | A pilot EPA regulatory program to acknowledge good licensee performance. |
| **ecologically sustainable development** | The National Strategy for Ecologically Sustainable Development, endorsed by all Australian jurisdictions in 1992, defines the goal of ESD as: ‘development that  improves the total quality of life, both now and in the future, in a way that maintains the ecological processes on which life depends.’ |
| **e-waste** | e-waste comprises of electronic equipment with a plug or battery that requires a current to operate and that has reached end of life. It includes televisions, computers, monitors and whitegoods such as fridges and washing machines. |
| **Emergency Management Commissioner** | Is responsible for coordinating the response to major emergencies (including ensuring appropriate control arrangements are in place) and operating effectively during Class 1 and Class 2 emergencies. The Commissioner is also responsible for co-ordinating consequence management and recovery for all major emergencies. |
| **environmental auditor** | The *Environment Protection Act 1970* (the Act) provides for the statutory appointment of environmental auditors under section 53S. Their responsibility is to ensure high-quality, rigorous environmental audits are conducted. |
| **environmental hazard** | A substance or a situation in the environment where exposure to that substance or situation has the potential to cause adverse effects to human health or the environment |
| **environmental health** | Those aspects of human health determined by physical, chemical, biological and social factors in the environment. Environmental health practice covers the assessment, correction, control and prevention of environmental factors that can adversely affect health, as well as the enhancement of those aspects of the environment that can improve human health. |

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| Term | Definition |
| **environmental health surveillance** | Is the systematic, ongoing collection, integration, analysis and interpretation of data about environmental hazards, exposure to environmental hazards and health effects potentially related to exposure to environmental hazards in order to prevent and monitor disease. |
| **general duty** | A requirement for duty holders to take reasonably practicable steps to minimise risks of harm. |
| **Governor in Council** | Where the Governor exercises powers of the Crown at a meeting of the Executive Council established under s. 87 of the Constitution Act 1975. It exercises the chief executive authority in the State. It consists of all Ministers but a quorum consists of the Governor and two Ministers. |
| **Growth Areas** | Locations on the fringe of metropolitan Melbourne designated in planning schemes for large-scale transformation, over many years, from rural to urban use. |
| **harm** | Involves some form of damage, impairment, alteration, misuse, loss. |
| **hazard** | Inherent property of a contaminant or situation having the potential to cause adverse effects when a population may be exposed to that contaminant. It is also described as the disposition of a thing, a condition or a situation to produce an adverse health or environmental effect; or an event, sequence of events or combination of circumstances that could potentially have adverse consequences (adapted from ACDP 1996). |
| **hazardous chemical** | See Prescribed Waste. |
| **land use buffer** | Land use separation or buffers are used to separate conflicting land use such as industrial use from more sensitive use such as residential. |
| **landfill levy** | A levy applied at differential rates to municipal, commercial and Industrial waste and prescribed wastes disposed of at licensed landfills in Victoria. |
| **liveability** | A measure of a city’s residents’ quality of life, used to benchmark cities around the world. It includes socioeconomic, environmental, transport and recreational measures. |
| **load-based licensing** | A licensing scheme where licence fees are linked to the level of pollutants emitted by the licensee. |
| **low carbon** | In reference to a power source is that has minimal output of greenhouse gas especially carbon dioxide. |
| **Minister** | Member of the elected government appointed by the Governor to be responsible for one or more portfolios. |
| **Ministerial Direction**  **– under P&E Act** | The Minister for Planning can issue directions to planning authorities under Sections 7(5), 12(2) (a) and 46M of the *Planning and Environment Act*, about the preparation of planning schemes and amendments to planning schemes. |
| **nuisance** | It is an offence under the nuisance provisions of the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* for a person to cause a ‘nuisance’ that is considered to be ‘dangerous to health’ or ‘offensive’. |
| **offensive** | The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* defines ‘offensive’ as being ‘noxious or injurious to personal comfort’. |
| **planning permit** | A planning permit is a legal document that gives permission for a use or development on a particular piece of land. |
| **planning scheme** | The planning scheme controls land use and development within a municipality. It contains State and local planning policies, zones and overlays and other provisions that affect how land can be used and developed. |
| **planning scheme overlay** | In addition to the requirements of the zone, further planning provisions may apply to a site or area through the application of an overlay. |
| **planning scheme zones** | A planning scheme zones land for particular uses, for example, residential, industrial, business or other. The zones are listed in the planning scheme and each zone has a purpose and set of requirements. |

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| Term | Definition |
| **pollution** | The introduction of substances into waste, land or the atmosphere, so that the condition is adversely altered to be: detrimental to its use, or harmful to the health or welfare of humans. |
| **potentially contaminated land** | For land use planning under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* potentially contaminated Land is land that may be contaminated due to past industrial, mining activity or the past storage of chemicals, wastes or liquid fuels. |
| **Precinct Structure Plans (PSPs)** | Sets the future structure of new suburbs. They are master plans for whole communities of generally up to 30,000 people. |
| **prescribed waste and prescribed industrial**  **waste (PIW)** | These wastes are defined in the *Environment Protection (Industrial Waste Resource) Regulations 2009*.  EPA closely regulates these wastes because of their potential adverse impacts on human health and the environment. |
| **product stewardship** | A concept of shared responsibility by all sectors involved in the manufacture, distribution, use and disposal of products, which seeks to ensure value is recovered from products at the end of life. |
| **prosecution** | The institution and conducting of legal proceedings against someone in respect of a criminal charge. |
| **public health** | Refers to all organized measures (whether public or private) to prevent disease, promote health, and prolong life among the population as a whole. Its activities aim to provide conditions in which people can be healthy and focus on entire populations, not on individual patients or diseases. |
| **Public Sector** | The sector that comprises the public service, public entities, and special bodies. s. 4(1), *Public Administration Act*. |
| **reasonably practicable** | A duty under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* to ensure so far as is reasonably practicable health and safety by eliminating risks to health and safety or if it is not reasonably practicable to eliminate risks to health and safety, to reduce those risks so far as is reasonably practicable. |
| **reverse buffer** | The concept of a ‘reverse buffer’ is where an impact generating use is protected from encroachment by sensitive uses, rather than the sensitive use being protected from encroachment by a use with adverse impacts. |
| **risk** | The probability that, in a certain time frame, an adverse outcome will occur in  a person, group of people, plants, animals and/or the ecology of a specified area that is exposed to a particular dose or concentration of a hazardous agent, that is, it depends on both the intrinsic toxicity of the agent and the level of exposure. |
| **risk based** | A risk-based approach can ensure that resources are focused on issues that pose the highest risk to human health and the environment, while avoiding unnecessary and costly action of low-risk issues.  A risk-based approach involves considering the likelihood and consequences of impacts, when making decisions in relation to an issues. |
| **risk management** | The culture, processes and structures that prevent the chance of something happening that will have an adverse impact on a public entity’s objectives. |
| **separation distance** | Means the space between industrial land uses and sensitive land uses. |
| **Septic tank – domestic waste water** | Domestic onsite wastewater treatment systems and their associated effluent recycling systems are referred to as ‘septic tank systems’ in the *Environment Protection Act*, Part IXB, Clauses 53J-53O. |
| **solid waste** | Non-hazardous, non-prescribed, solid waste materials. |
| **State environment protection policies (SEPPs) and Waste Management Policies (WMPs)** | Are subordinate legislation made under the provisions of the *Environment Protection Act 1970* to provide more detailed requirements and guidance for the application of the Act to Victoria. |

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| Term | Definition |
| **statutory authority** | In context of the *Financial Management Act 1994* it is a Department or a person or body prescribed as an authority for the purposes of the *Financial Management Act*. s. 3. |
| **statutory land use planning** | The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* establishes a framework for planning the use, development and protection of land in Victoria. The Act sets out procedures for preparing and amending the Victoria Planning Provisions and planning schemes, obtaining permits under schemes. |
| **strategic land use planning** | Strategic land-use planning focusses on planning issues at a municipality or precinct level, rather than on a proposal-by-proposal or site-by-site basis. Precinct Structure Plans are one type of strategic land use planning exercise. |
| **subsidiarity principle** | A principle used in governance that states that responsibility for a function should, where practicable, be allocated to the tier of government that is closest to those affected by the decisions and/or is best placed to deliver the function. |
| **The State Planning Policy Framework** | The State Planning Policy Framework provides overarching policy to guide land use, subdivision and development in Victoria. |
| **third party rights** | The rights of a person other than the regulator and the regulated entity to challenge a decision or enforce a requirement. |
| **trade wastes** | All liquid wastes, including clean wash water, used during business activities being discharged into the sewer system. It is more contaminated that normal domestic sewerage and therefore needs to be managed correctly. |
| **unreasonable** | Section 48A of the *Environment Protection Act 1970* makes it an offence to cause ‘unreasonable noise’ from any residential premises. Residential noise may be unreasonable at any time of the day, depending on its volume, intensity and duration, and the time, place and other circumstances in which it is emitted. |
| **Victoria Planning Provisions (VPPS)** | Set standard statewide planning provisions. Councils use the VPPs to create local planning schemes, which must include standard provisions selected from the VPPs and local provisions developed by the council. |
| **Victorian**  **WorkCover Authority** | Manages Victoria’s workplace safety system. It promotes a culture of safety through public awareness programs, education and other communication activities. |
| **waste** | The *Environment Protection Act 1970* uses a broad definition of waste, which includes the discharge, emission or depositing of any substance into the environment (to air water or land). |

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