



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Environmental Protection Authority

Annual Report  
2024-25

## Environmental Protection Authority

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## Letter to the Minister

Hon. Matthew Swinbourn BA LLB MLC

Minister for the Environment; Community Services; Homelessness

In accordance with section 21 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*, I submit for your information and presentation to the Parliament of Western Australia, the annual report for the Environmental Protection Authority for the year ended 30 June 2025.



Darren Walsh

Chair, Environmental Protection Authority

30 September 2025

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians 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. We seek to learn about and value traditional knowledge and practices in protecting the environment.

# Contents

<b>Message from the Chair</b>	4
-------------------------------	---

<b>At a glance 2024–25</b>	6
----------------------------	---

<b>Acronyms</b>	7
-----------------	---

<b>About the EPA</b>	8
----------------------	---

Role of the EPA	8
The Authority	10

<b>Strategic activities and advice</b>	14
--	----

How we consider greenhouse gas emissions	14
Practical guidance for green energy proposals	15
Cumulative impacts in EIA	16
District structure planning for better outcomes	17
Procedures review to streamline process	18
Revision of rehabilitation guidance	19

<b>Environmental impact assessments</b>	20
---	----

Referred proposals and schemes	20
Consultation	20
Completed assessments	21
Assessing proposed gas developments	22
Complex EIAs for tourism projects	23
Ensuring mining developments achieve good environmental outcomes	25
Green Energy projects	27
Outcome of appeals	29
Considering key infrastructure proposals	30

<b>Focus – environmental outcomes</b>	32
---------------------------------------	----

Cumulative impacts in the Northern Jarrah Forest	32
Creating opportunities for innovative engagement	34

<b>Outcomes of the independent review of processes</b>	36
--	----

Statement of Expectation	37
Adapting to new Act amendments	40
Our Strategic Plan	40

<b>Engagement with stakeholders</b>	41
-------------------------------------	----

Scientific Advisory Council	41
EPA meetings	42
Panel delegations	44
Site visits	44
Stakeholder Reference Group	45
Have your say	45

<b>Appendices</b>	46
-------------------	----

Appendix 1: Referrals received and levels of assessment	46
Appendix 2: Completed assessment reports	47
Appendix 3: EPA guidelines and procedures published or revised in 2024–25	49

# Message from the Chair



**Darren Walsh**  
Chair, EPA

On behalf of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), I am pleased to present this annual report for 2024–25 to the Minister for the Environment and the Western Australian Parliament.

The past year – my first as Chair – was one of consolidation as we navigated legislative reform and updated our governance.

Amendments to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EP Act) made it possible to expand the EPA from five to nine members and introduced requirements for the overall membership to have a range of skills and expertise relevant to the functions of the independent EPA. This has limited the extent to which members are conflicted and enabled quorum to be reached far more easily.

## **Additional EPA members**

By January 2025 we were operating with a full contingent of nine members. EPA members are appointed by the Governor of Western Australia on the recommendation of the Minister for the Environment. The transition to

nine members has been remarkably seamless and is testament to the vision and collaborative mindsets of the members themselves.

This added depth and diversity of knowledge has enabled me to instigate the earlier engagement of members with EPA support officers from the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER). This has helped ensure clarity and consistency around processes for proposals being considered under Part IV of the EP Act. Ensuring alignment of purpose and assigning individual or smaller groups of EPA members to complex assessments has enabled a stronger pathway to more timely environmental outcomes.

The reforms also included a Statement of Expectation. This gives us a line of sight to the State Government's priorities without interfering with our independence in determining how we perform our functions. The EPA welcomed this clarity and commensurate commitment to resourcing for delivering on these priorities and objectives.

My EPA colleagues and I fully support any reform that maintains a rigorous and transparent assessment process, while contributing to good environmental outcomes for Western Australia.

Conducting environmental impact assessments and making recommendations to the Minister for the Environment remain front and centre of our core business. During 2024–25 we delivered 20 report and recommendations on significant proposals. Among these were the highest number of reports on new referrals in eight years. We conducted 13 site visits and sought feedback from the community and stakeholders during more than 50 public consultations.

## **Adaptive engagement**

We also looked at opportunities to engage with both industry and the community in more innovative ways. This included taking the unusual step of consulting on an amendment proposed under section 43A of the EP Act, and offering in-person briefings to stakeholders in the early stages of a



public review. Adopting a bespoke and genuine approach to engagement will remain at the forefront of our Strategic Plan and we will continue to tailor our methods to ensure all stakeholders are adequately and transparently consulted.

The EPA's policy and strategic work was also comprehensive during 2024–25, with our Greenhouse Gas guidance requiring an update to reflect contemporary circumstances. In

October 2024, the State Government updated its [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Policy for Major Projects](#) to allow certain proposals in Western Australia to be regulated under the Commonwealth's Safeguard Mechanism. In November 2024, we revised our *Environmental Factor Guideline – Greenhouse Gas Emissions* (GHG) to ensure compatibility with existing frameworks and outline how and when we would consider this factor during the environmental impact assessment process.

### **Delivering environmental outcomes**

EPA Deputy Chair Lee McIntosh has been a constant source of knowledge and support to me during my term, and she has worked tirelessly to deliver good environmental outcomes for this state. I thank Lee sincerely for her work, as well as the other members of the EPA, for their diligence and willingness to engage so actively in the process.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank EPA Services officers and other staff from DWER for their work and professionalism. Their extraordinary commitment and expertise has helped facilitate robust assessments and good environmental outcomes for Western Australia.

This annual report highlights the important role the EPA has played during 2024–25 in guiding strategic environmental policy, conducting environmental impact assessments, and advising the Minister for the Environment on strategic matters. Our core role is, and will continue to be, to provide the best possible advice to government to inform its decision-making.



# At a glance 2024–25

The EPA is an independent statutory authority that provides advice on environmental matters to the Minister for the Environment. In 2024–25:



**38 proposals and 104 schemes** or scheme amendments were referred for a decision on whether formal assessment was required.



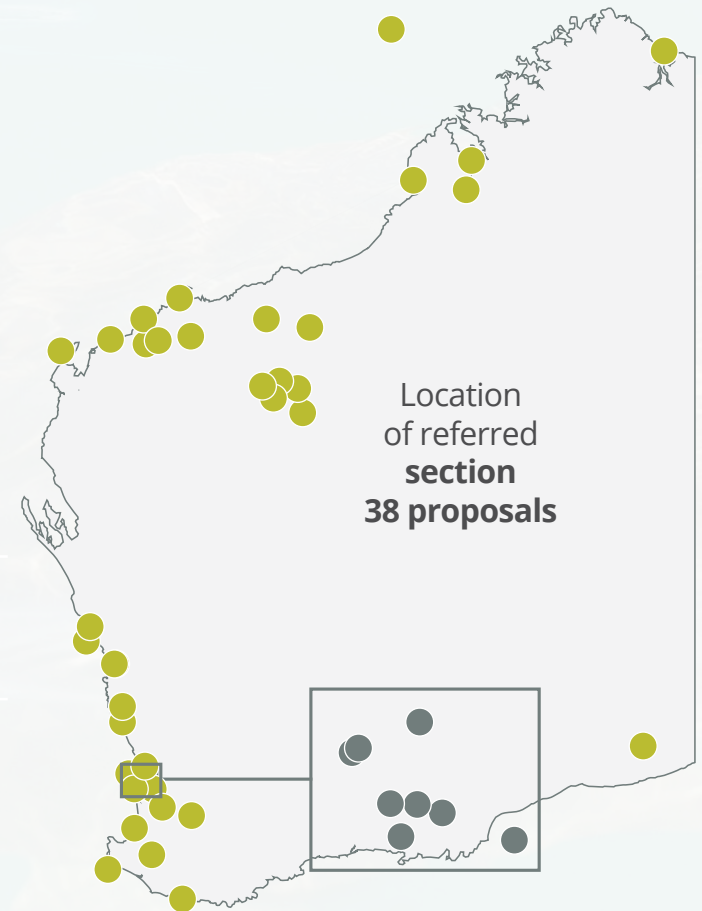
More than **15 per cent** of referrals were made by a third party and **6** were declared invalid referrals.



Determined **13** proposals did not require further assessment, **17** proposals required formal assessment, **3** proposals were derived proposals, **96** schemes or scheme amendments did not require further assessment, no schemes or scheme amendments required formal assessment.



Provided public advice for an additional **9** referred proposals and **27** referred schemes



Location of referred  
section  
**38 proposals**



Completed **20** reports, including **18** reports on new referrals, comprising **14** significant proposals and **4** significant amendments.



Received **35,885** submissions from **52** public consultations.



Completed **13** site visits.



Hosted quarterly meetings of **EPA Stakeholder Reference Group**.



**22** ministerial statements were published for proposals or schemes assessed by the EPA.



Made **4** decisions without meetings, in accordance with the provisions of the new section 14A of the EP Act.



**Published advice, guidance and instructions:**

- Updated the *Environmental Factor Guideline – Greenhouse Gas Emissions*
- Published the *Green Energy Proponent Guideline* (DWER 2025)



**Shortened forms**

DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (WA)
DCCEEW	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Cwth)
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (WA)
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (WA)
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EP Act	<i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> (WA)
EPA/Authority	Environmental Protection Authority
WA	Western Australia
WAMSI	Western Australian Marine Science Institution

# About the EPA



## Role of the EPA

The EPA comprises up to nine members appointed by the Governor of Western Australia on the recommendation of the Minister for the Environment

The EPA is independent, in that we are not subject to direction by the Minister, and our advice to the Minister is public. This independence is fundamental to our ability to provide sound, robust and transparent advice as part of our role in government to ensure sustainable development and intergenerational equity.

The EP Act governs the EPA's operations, stipulating the use of our best endeavours to protect the environment and to prevent, control and abate pollution and environmental harm. The EP Act defines the environment as 'living things, their physical, biological and social surroundings, and interactions between all of these'.

We are focused and innovative in our activities to ensure we are protecting the environment for present and future generations.

Our functions include:

- conducting environmental impact assessments
- considering and initiating the means of protecting the environment and the means of preventing, controlling and abating pollution and environmental harm
- preparing and seeking approval for environmental protection policies
- preparing and publishing guidelines for managing environmental impacts
- advising the Minister on environmental matters generally.





Back left to right – David Caddy, Karen Caple, Luke Twomey, Hamish Beck, Anthony Sutton  
Front left to right – Kelly Faulkner, Darren Walsh, Lee McIntosh, Jane Bennett





## The Authority



**Darren Walsh**  
Chair

14 October 2024 to 4 November 2028

Darren Walsh is a former Chief Executive Officer and Director of a major environmental consulting firm, with over two decades of experience in environmental impact assessment, approvals and management, planning, strategic advice and policy development. He has previously held a variety of leadership roles within the private sector as well as across state and local government, including being the independent Appeals Convenor to the Minister for Environment from 2003 to 2006.

Mr Walsh was appointed to the EPA as a member in November 2023. He has a Master's degree in Environmental Science, a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Impact Assessment and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Health.





**Lee McIntosh**  
Deputy Chair

18 November 2020 to  
15 October 2025

Lee McIntosh has more than 20 years' experience practicing as an environmental lawyer. She has extensive experience in corporate, government and community sectors, been active in several environmental law policy and reform initiatives, lectured and tutored in environmental law and worked across all areas of environmental law assessment and approvals. She was Acting EPA Chair from April- October 2024.

Ms McIntosh has also held roles on several government and community boards and provided advice on the environmental approval and social licence issues associated with some of Western Australia's most significant projects.

She has a Masters Degree in Environmental Law from the University of Calgary, Canada, and a Bachelor of Law (first class honours) and Bachelor of Science (Environmental Science) from Murdoch University. She is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and achieved an order of merit in the Company Directors course.



**Hamish Beck OAM**  
Member

6 February 2023 to  
5 February 2028

Hamish Beck has extensive strategic experience in planning, development and conservation. He has been Chair of the Swan River Trust since 2014, Chair of the Rottnest Island Authority since 2021 and recently retired from the Cockburn Sound Management Council. In recognition of his contribution to conservation, environmental protection, and public administration, Mr Beck received a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2025.

With experience in marine, terrestrial and environmental management, Mr Beck brings a diverse knowledge in complex environmental matters to the EPA. Mr Beck has also held senior roles within Western Australia's development and construction industry and has been involved with a broad range of committees, boards, trusts, development groups, foundations and not-for-profits.



**Jane Bennett**  
Member

11 June 2024 to 12 June 2027

Jane Bennett has been at the forefront of delivering major urban development projects, planning policy and legislative reform for more than two decades.

She is a member of the WA Planning Commission (WAPC), an Urban Development Institute of Australia (UDIA) (WA) councillor, is Chair of the UDIA's WA Reconciliation Action Plan working group, is co-owner of a planning and design consultancy and has held planning roles with WA local governments.

She is also a recipient of the UDIA (WA) Women in Leadership Award and was also made a Fellow of the Planning Institute Australia for her contribution to planning. She also served as a Development WA board member for seven years.





**Karen Caple**  
Member

14 October 2024 to  
8 October 2027

Karen Caple is a former resource and environmental compliance executive director with the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety and has extensive experience in governance, environmental assessments / approvals, legislative reform, regulatory policy, strategic planning, project management and local government reform.

As well as a broad understanding of initiatives such as StreamlineWA, the Mining Environmental Approvals project, and the delivery of effective compliance regimes, she has a strong record of engagement with stakeholders and key State Government agencies.

Ms Caple is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the University of Western Australia.



**Dr Luke Twomey**  
Member

26 November 2024 to  
25 November 2027

Dr Luke Twomey is Chief Executive of the Western Australian Marine Science Institution (WAMSI) and has been leading strategic research programs and initiatives at this independent marine research organisation since 2017.

He is a phytoplankton ecologist with experience across environmental impact assessment; management; research and teaching in estuarine, nearshore and offshore environments – both in Australia and internationally.

Dr Twomey's primary role is to drive planning and implement a strategic marine science approach for WAMSI and its partners to deliver strategic multi-disciplinary marine research programs across Western Australia. He is a member of the National Marine Science Committee, and CQUniversity's Coastal Marine Ecosystem Research Centre Advisory Group.

He has a Doctor of Philosophy and Bachelor of Science, Honours (Class 1) from Curtin University and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.



**Kelly Faulkner**  
Member

126 November 2024 to  
25 November 2027

Kelly Faulkner has four decades of experience in the WA State Public Service, specialising in delivery of environmental and natural resource management, including leading a range of environmental impact assessments and approvals, waste and contaminated sites management, pollution control and statewide compliance and enforcement activities.

She is an experienced executive leader and was an Executive Director within DWER and its predecessor agency and is a former independent Appeals Convenor to the Minister for the Environment. Ms Faulkner has extensive experience in public administration and governance, provision of strategic advice, development of policies and regulatory reform and was an active member of the DWER corporate executive.

She is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, the Institute of Public Administration Australia and the National Environmental Law Association.





## **Anthony Sutton** Member

1 January 2025 to  
31 December 2027

Anthony Sutton has more than two decades experience in environmental impact assessment, including roles as independent Appeals Convenor and Executive Director of DWER's EPA Services directorate. Most recently he led the State Government's energy transition division in the sectors of renewable hydrogen, batteries and critical minerals, liquid natural gas decommissioning and carbon capture and storage.

Mr Sutton has also held environmental roles at the Swan River Trust, Cockburn Sound Management Council, Geographe Bay Catchment Council and former Waters and Rivers Commission.

He has a Master of Science (Environmental Science) from Murdoch University and a Graduate Certificate in Business from the University of Notre Dame. Mr Sutton is also a recipient of the Public Service Medal for outstanding public service in supporting the sustainable development of the resources, minerals and energy sectors.



## **Professor David Caddy** Member

1 January 2025 to  
31 December 2027

In an urban and regional planning career spanning 50 years, Professor David Caddy has developed a skillset abundant in statutory planning, development control, strategic and structure planning, project management and documentation, planning advocacy and formulation and delivery of policy.

He was Chair of the Western Australian Planning Commission for nearly seven years, stepping down from the role at the end of 2024. Professor Caddy also remains Chair of the Regional Development Trust administering the Royalties for Regions Fund, a position he has held since 2023.

He has a Bachelor of Arts in Urban and Regional Studies from Curtin University, is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, a Registered Planner and Life Fellow of the Planning Institute of Australia, is a recipient of the Planning Institute of Australia's Leadership and Service Award (2022) and the W.E. Bold Memorial Medal (2024). Professor Caddy also held the position of Professor, Urban and Regional Planning at The University of Western Australia from 2010–19 and was appointed to the position of Adjunct Professor in 2020 and 2023.



## Strategic activities and advice

### Updates to the consideration of greenhouse gas emissions

In October 2024, the State Government updated its [Greenhouse Gas Emissions Policy for Major Projects](#) to allow certain proposals in Western Australia to be regulated under the Commonwealth's Safeguard Mechanism and not by the state.

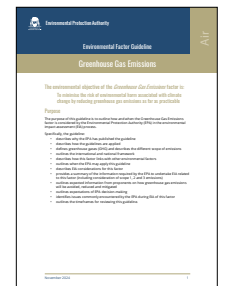
At the time the EPA noted that the Safeguard Mechanism presented an opportunity to streamline information requirements to support our consideration, and that the Safeguard Mechanism was likely to meet the EPA's expectations for this factor in most cases.

To ensure compatibility with existing frameworks and outline how and when the greenhouse gas environmental factor would be considered in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process, we revised the current Environmental Factor Guideline (2023).

The [latest iteration was published in November 2024](#). It outlines the international and national framework and how the GHG factor links with other environmental factors, and how the EPA may apply it during EIA.

Following the changes to policy and guidance, a review of ministerial statements identified more than 60 major development projects that had implementation conditions relating to greenhouse gas emissions. DWER identified 20 of these which had defined fixed-step reduction conditions for scope 1 greenhouse gas emissions where the facility is expected to be regulated under the Safeguard Mechanism. As a result, the Minister for the Environment requested the EPA undertake inquiries, under section 46 of the EP Act, into changing the implementation conditions relating to the management of greenhouse gas emissions for the 20 identified projects.

The EPA has undertaken an inquiry for all 20 proposals.



## Practical guidance for green energy proposals

In December 2024, the DWER released the [Green Energy Proponent Guideline](#). Developed to assist proponents referring green energy proposals under Part IV of the EP Act, the guideline outlines key concepts and issues the EPA will consider when assessing these types of proposals.

The guideline explains and provides examples of environmental values that may be impacted by different types of green energy proposals, and ways to avoid and minimise impacts.

The guideline provides information relating to the following green energy industries:

- solar power generation
- onshore wind power generation
- offshore wind power generation
- renewable hydrogen manufacturing
- critical mineral mining and processing.

Providing clear and practical guidance and information to proponents is a key tool in streamlining assessments to enable government to reach its energy transition goals.



## Cumulative impacts in EIA

The consideration of cumulative impacts has long been a part of the EPA's EIA process. As Western Australia's unique environment faces growing pressures, the need to consider cumulative impacts has become increasingly important. In recognition of this, the EP Act was amended in 2020 to explicitly require the consideration of the cumulative effect of impacts of a proposal on the environment under section 3(1B) of the EP Act.

The EPA's policy suite refers to cumulative effects as 'taking into account cumulative environmental impacts – the successive, incremental and interactive impacts of a proposal with one or more past, present and reasonably foreseeable future activities'. Under Part IV of the EP Act, the EPA expects proponents to take reasonable steps to gather relevant information and assess the cumulative impacts of their proposal. This should occur during the early planning stages of a proposal to ensure a thorough and informed assessment.

Concerns about the EPA's expectations for cumulative impact assessment (CIA) were raised during the public consultation on the EP Act Amendments. While proponents currently undertake CIA, the absence of clear guidance has led to assessments that are often limited and inconsistent.

To address this, we are developing a high-level guideline to clarify expectations and support proponents to adopt a more consistent and robust approach to CIA, which in turn will result in a more streamlined assessment process. The guideline is intended to provide a generic framework for CIA while addressing the following questions.

- What are cumulative impacts in the context of EIA?
- When does the EPA expect CIA to be considered?
- How can proponents identify and present relevant information to support a robust CIA?

During 2024–25 the draft guideline progressed through several key development stages, including consultation with EPA members, the EPA's Stakeholder Reference Group, other non-government agencies, and subject matter experts within DWER.





© WA Tourism

## District structure planning for better outcomes

**The EPA recognises that better environmental outcomes may be achieved when environmental values are identified early in the land planning process.**

As a result of discussions between the EPA and Western Australian Planning Commission (WAPC), it was agreed that opportunities for involvement of the EPA in strategic planning processes was an important component for the delivery of efficient environmental planning outcomes.

District Structure Plans (DSP) are important planning instruments delivering on higher order strategic planning objectives. DSPs refine broad land use planning proposals with site specific information and establish coordination of land and infrastructure planning to support future development. DSPs guide further detailed planning through subsequent stages of the planning system, including regional and/or local planning scheme amendments, structure plans, precinct plans, subdivision and development.

District structure planning plays an important role in coordinating planning efforts among State Government agencies, local authorities, and

landowners. They inform the planning activities of servicing agencies by identifying required infrastructure upgrades or new provisions, setting delivery timeframes, and establishing funding mechanisms and responsibilities.

WAPC is responsible for strategic land use and infrastructure planning, as outlined in the *Planning and Development Act 2005*. Accordingly, it is responsible for considering and approving DSPs. Once approved, DSPs are WAPC documents.

As DSPs do not meet the definition of a proposal and may only in some specific situations meet the requirements for assessment as a strategic proposal they cannot be assessed by the EPA under Part IV of the EP Act. Therefore, the provision of EPA advice under section 16 of the EP Act is the appropriate mechanism for the EPA to consider DSPs.

In late 2024, WAPC and EPA agreed to prepare joint guidance for providing environmental advice into DSPs.

The Joint Guideline will explain how the planning framework and the environmental framework, and their responsible agencies, will interact to support environmental outcomes. This will include the early identification of environmental values to inform the preparation and consideration of DSPs.

Section 16 advice on DSPs will enable the WAPC to consider the environmental issues raised and incorporate appropriate responses into DSPs with the aim of improving environmental planning outcomes.

EPA section 16 advice on DSPs is advice only; there are no recommended ministerial conditions that may be applied to the DSP. At subsequent stages of the planning process, the EPA may still determine to assess significant proposals, proposals of a prescribed class, strategic proposals and land-use planning schemes under Part IV of the EP Act. Work is progressing on this joint guidance.



## Procedures review to streamline processes

The EPA has utilised *Administrative Procedures* since at least 1993 as a means of describing the procedures used for dealing with referrals and assessments covered by Part IV of the EP Act. In 2016, the EPA also published a *Procedures Manual* to support to the *Administrative Procedures* by providing more detailed information for proponents and the public about the EIA process.

In 2023 as part of our Strategic Plan, the EPA decided to review our procedures suite for EIA to identify continuous improvement opportunities for efficiency and environmental protection. The review, refined by the Vogel-McFerran review and incorporating feedback from the EPA's Stakeholder Reference Group, was provided in October 2024.

The review identified significant duplication across the EIA procedures suite, and that the legal terminology used in the current *Administrative Procedures* made it difficult to understand. It also identified a lack of transparency as to how the EPA made decisions at various stages of the process. Opportunities to improve the process and procedures included streamlining the scoping process, simplifying the referral and assessment through provision of a single tailored assessment document, and providing more rigour around how additional information is input into the assessment process.

In considering the results of these reviews, the EPA determined the most effective way to implement identified improvements was through consolidating the existing *Administrative Procedures* and *Procedures Manual* into a single, easier to understand document. The EPA commenced drafting the *EIA practice guide, assessment of proposals in Western Australia under Part IV of the Environmental Protection Act 1986* (EIA practice guide) during 2024–25, conducting an eight-week consultation process through the Stakeholder Reference Group.

The EPA aims for the EIA Practice Guide are to outline, in a user-friendly way, the practice and expectations for EIA of proposals, including the assessment processes, at each stage of the assessment. It is intended to assist proponents, consultants and the community to understand what to expect from the usual EIA process. This includes clearly outlining when and

what decisions are made by the EPA, the information required to inform those decisions, and the accountability of each participant in the EIA process.

The EPA is continuing to refine the EIA Practice Guide and incorporate stakeholder feedback and is intending to publish to document later in 2025.



Greater bilby



## Revision of rehabilitation guidance

**Western Australia has a vast array of landscapes and climatic zones, supporting ecologically rich and ancient systems that are globally significant for their exceptional biodiversity and remarkably high levels of endemism.**

Environmental rehabilitation is essential to restoring Western Australia's diverse and fragile ecosystems following industrial, agricultural and urban development. With vast landscapes impacted by mining and land clearing, rehabilitation ensures long-term ecological stability, supports biodiversity and reduces erosion and contamination risks. It also helps meet regulatory obligations and enhances community trust.

Progressive rehabilitation has been increasingly integrated into project planning in Western Australia, with efforts focused on restoring native vegetation, protecting soil health and enabling sustainable land use post-closure. These restoration practices play a critical role in the EPA's application of the EP Act for the prevention, control and abatement of pollution and environmental harm; for the conservation, preservation, protection, enhancement and

management of the environment; and for matters incidental to or connected with the foregoing.

Climate change poses a profound threat to ecosystems, biodiversity and human well-being. Rising temperatures, extreme weather and shifting rainfall patterns are degrading landscapes and disrupting natural processes. Environmental restoration offers a strategic response – reviving degraded ecosystems, enhancing carbon sequestration and building resilience against climate impacts.



Ellen Brook Nature Reserve

By restoring native vegetation, wetlands and soil health, we not only repair past damage but also create buffers that protect communities and biodiversity.

In recognition of the increasing pressures of climate change and the essential role of rehabilitation in mitigation efforts, the EPA decided to review *Guidance Statement 6: Rehabilitation of Terrestrial Ecosystems* (GS6) to better align it with contemporary science and current approaches to rehabilitation and ultimately achieve improved environmental outcomes. While GS6 still contains valuable and relevant information, we acknowledged that after 20 years, a revision was timely and necessary. The review aims not only to modernise the guidance, but also to align it with Western Australia's broader commitments to sustainability and climate resilience.

The review reflects a broader shift in the regulatory context. At the time GS6 was published, rehabilitation was considered as one of several Environmental Factors we assessed during EIA. Since then, its role has evolved, and rehabilitation is now positioned within the mitigation hierarchy as a key management action for proponents to reduce adverse environmental impacts.

We have undertaken early consultation with restoration industry experts to ensure the review captures contemporary ecological science and promotes outcomes-based conditions that better reflect ecological success. The review forms part of our overall effort to contemporise our environmental policy suite.

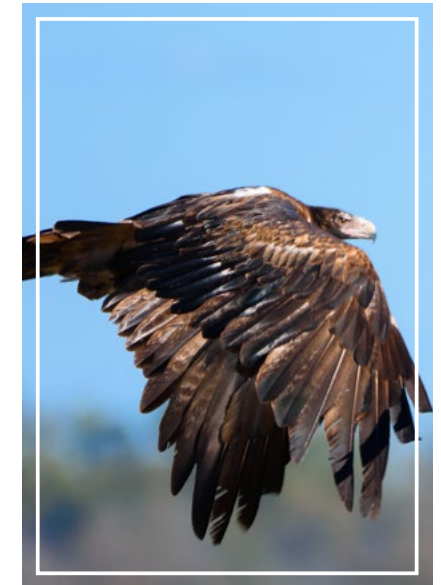
The revision of the rehabilitation guidance will continue with plans to release an updated guideline in the coming year.

# Environmental impact assessments

## Referred proposals and schemes

In 2024–25, there were 38 development proposals, three derived proposals and 104 schemes or scheme amendments were referred to us.

During this period, we determined **17** proposals required formal assessment, and **13** proposals did not require further assessment. The EPA decided **96** schemes or scheme amendments did not require further assessment. No schemes or scheme amendments required formal assessment



## 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 formal opportunity for the community to engage is when the EPA publishes the details of a significant proposal at the referral stage, which

allows a seven-day public comment period. After this, the EPA considers the 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.

## Completed assessments

In 2024–25 DWER supported the EPA to complete 20 reports to the Minister for the Environment. Of these, 18 were for the assessment of new proposals or significant amendments to existing proposals (section 38), and two were inquiries into changing the conditions of Ministerial Statements for existing proposals (section 46).

Significant assessments completed included the Tonkin Highway Grade Separated Interchanges project, the Gnarabup Tourism Development Resort and Beach Village proposal, and a proposal to extend the life of Kalgoorlie-Boulder’s “Super Pit”. The section 46 inquiries into conditions in Ministerial Statements were for Subdivision (amalgamation) Lots 802, 804 and 4640 Mandurah Road, East Rockingham, and the Gorgon Gas development.

**Table 1 – Completed EPA reports on development proposals**

Assessment reports completed				
Type of assessment	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25
Formal assessments				
Public environmental review	5	4	9	7
Environmental review (no public review)	0	0	0	0
Assessment on referral information (no public review)	2	1	2	4
Assessment on referral information (with public review)	7	5	5	7
Strategic proposal	-	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>
Changes to conditions				
s.46 inquiry	9	7	4	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>



## Assessing proposed gas developments

The EPA continues to consider proposals to develop the large volumes of offshore and onshore undeveloped gas in Western Australia.

One of the most complex of these is Woodside Energy Ltd's **Browse to North West Shelf Development** proposal. The proposal before the EPA involves the construction, operation and decommissioning of up to 20 subsea wells over an expected field life to 2070. The State Waters component of this proposal to extract hydrocarbons from the Torosa reservoir, 425 kilometres north of Broome, has been under assessment by the EPA since 2019. During this time there have been three amendments requested by the proponent, as well as an eight-week public review which attracted nearly 20,000 submissions.

This year we decided to seek further public comment on the most recent amendment requested by the proponent under section 43A of the EP Act. This amendment was approved in August 2025.

This latest amendment includes reduction in the development

envelope such that it no longer overlaps the Scott Reef shallow water benthic habitats or Sandy Islet; modifications to remove or relocate drilling units to avoid green turtle habitats; and the adoption of technology to minimise the risk of a loss-of-well-control event.

Given that a significant amount of time had passed since the previous consultations and that the proposal had been changed several times since the original referral, EPA members considered that a four-week public review of the amendment was warranted.

Feedback from the more than 17,700 submissions, as well as responses from the proponent were considered by the EPA.

We are now completing our final report on the proposal.

During 2024–25 the EPA also made significant progress on the



Valhalla site visit

assessment of Bennett Resources Pty Ltd's proposed unconventional gas exploration drilling and hydraulic fracture stimulation program in the Kimberley.

The **Valhalla Gas Exploration and Appraisal Program** is for exploration and appraisal only and does not involve gas production. Should a commercially viable resource be identified, the proponent will be required to seek additional approvals under both federal and state legislation.

The development envelope is 51 kilometres from Fitzroy Crossing and 123 kilometres south-east of Derby. The program involves up to 20 wells being constructed at 10 well sites across a disturbance footprint of 112 hectares in an area of the Canning Basin that has been previously surveyed and explored for petroleum purposes.

Members of the EPA visited the proposal site and met the proponent and other stakeholders, including Traditional Owners from the registered Native Title groups: the Warlangurru People and the Yungngora (Noonkanbah) People.



Scott Reef





Gnarabup site visit



South Thomson, Rottneest Island

## Complex EIAs for tourism projects

The EPA completed its three-year assessment of the Saracen Properties Pty Ltd proposal to develop a 121-room resort, residential dwellings and commercial premises at 783 Mitchell Drive in Gnarabup, about 8 kilometres south-west of Margaret River.

The proposed **Gnarabup Tourism Development Resort and Beach Village** sits on an 8.1 hectare site zoned for 'Future Development' and 'Tourism' under the Shire of Augusta–Margaret River Local Planning Scheme 1.

During the complex EIA, the EPA considered potential impacts to social surroundings, terrestrial fauna, flora and vegetation, inland waters, subterranean fauna, marine environmental quality, coastal processes, landforms and GHG emissions.

Throughout the assessment, EPA members were cognisant of the significant public interest in the project and the final Report acknowledged that the proposed development

would result in a change to the natural landscape and visual character of the environment.

The EPA report recommended conditions for height limitations, as well as further consultation with Traditional Owners and an ethnographic and archaeological site identification Aboriginal heritage survey to be undertaken prior to any disturbance.

Additionally, the EPA had also provided other advice in its report on matters raised during public consultation that were outside its statutory remit. Such matters included traffic congestion, bushfire safety, future wastewater management for the Prevelly-Gnarabup region and economic benefits.

We also made significant progress during 2024–25 on the **Smiths Beach Project Yallingup – Coastal Tourism Village** proposal. In December 2021, the consortium Smiths 2014 Pty Ltd submitted a referral to the EPA, proposing a tourist resort, campground, surf club and residential

development over more than 41 hectares at Lot 4131, Smiths Beach Road, Yallingup.

When the EPA published this new referral for a seven-day comment period in May 2022, we received 2,371 submissions. In the same month we published our decision to assess the Smiths Beach Project, Yallingup – Coastal Tourism Village at the level of public environmental review.

The environmental review document for this proposal was published for an eight-week public review period in December 2024. The EPA received more than 5,600 submissions. In June 2025, in response to concerns raised in submissions, the proponent successfully requested an amendment under section 43A of the EP Act to remove the universal access ramp from the proposal.

Work is progressing on finalising the EPA's report and recommendations for the Minister for Environment.



Rottnest Island (Wadjemup) also dominated the EPA's tourism assessment portfolio during 2024–25.

The Rottnest Island Authority (RIA) referred a proposal to relocate barge operations to the southern end of Thomson Bay. The proposal included the extension and redevelopment of the existing Army Groyne to create a breakwater, barge landing ramp, ferry berth, refuelling and small craft landing facility, and access road.

The environmental impact assessment of the **South Thomson Development Barge Landing Project**, which began in September 2024, included three weeks of public consultation.

The EPA's report to the Minister for the Environment recommended conditions to limit the timing of dredging and reclamation to avoid the spring and summer months (when seagrass flowering and fruiting occurs). Seagrass meadows are known to play an important ecological role in maintaining marine biodiversity and ecosystem health; hence we recommended conditions that would protect both ecological resilience and the overall productivity of Wadjemup's marine environment from the proposal impacts.

We also used our report to provide additional advice on the need for research to support the long-term conservation objectives of the Rottnest Island Marine Park.

During the year, the EPA considered a third-party referral on another RIA proposal to build 149 accommodation units for workers. In May 2025, and after a seven-day public comment period, we determined the **Rottnest Island Worker Accommodation** proposal did not warrant formal assessment under Part IV of the EP Act.



Smiths Beach site visit



Smiths Beach from Torpedo Rock



# Ensuring mining developments achieve good environmental outcomes

A proposal to extend the life of Kalgoorlie-Boulder’s “Super Pit” to 2034 was recommended for approval by the EPA in 2024–2025.

The EPA report on Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines Pty Ltd’s **Fimiston Gold Mine Operations Extension (Stage 3) and Mine Closure Planning: Revised Proposal – Fimiston South Project** proposal to mine a cutback of the existing Fimiston Open Pit was the culmination of a two-year environmental impact assessment and four-week public consultation.

The proposal was located within a brownfields site where existing mining and ore processing operations had been operating near urban areas for more than a century.

Recommended conditions addressed impacts of noise from mining and blasting and air quality from dust. EPA Report 1779, finalised in February 2025, also recommended the proponent undertake a noise exposure model to inform a future environmental health impact assessment relating to noise

impacts from mining operations. The recommended conditions also addressed potential impacts to the inland hairstreak butterfly (*Jalmenus aridus*), a Priority 1 fauna species, and the Priority 2 flora species, (*Eremophila praecox*), including the opportunity to re-establish habitat for the inland hairstreak butterfly and incorporate individuals of the *Eremophila species* during rehabilitation onsite.

In June 2025 the EPA recommended another gold mining proposal to construct and operate an open pit gold mine in the Pilbara be implemented, subject to conditions to protect water-based social and cultural values.

The EPA’s 20-month assessment of De Grey Mining Limited’s **Hemi Gold Project** included a four-week public review period and consideration of seven key environmental factors.

The Hemi proposal, located 85 kilometres south of Port Hedland, involves the excavation of open pits, mine dewatering and surplus water management including reinjection and controlled discharge. Associated

supporting infrastructure includes an integrated waste landform tailings storage facility, waste rock landforms, low-grade stockpiles, airstrip, accommodation village, sealed access and haulage roads, power and pipeline corridors, wastewater treatment plant and landfills.

The proposal, with a mine life of 15 years, is situated between two river systems, with the Yule River to the west and Turner River to the east. It sits predominantly within the Turner River surface water catchment.

In its report the EPA acknowledged the importance of the Yule River borefield in providing drinking water to the Town of Port Hedland and recommended a condition limiting groundwater drawdown within 14 kilometres of the water reserve.

We also recognised the separate but potentially competing users accessing, or seeking to access, water resources in the vicinity of the Hemi Gold proposal area and used our report to encourage relevant users to work together to maximise beneficial uses and ultimately minimise pressure on water resources.



Hemi site visit



Fimiston site visit





Lake Mackay © European Space Agency

Another complex EIA of a proposal further east reached a conclusion during 2024–25.

Over the course of a five-year EIA, the EPA encouraged the proponent of the **Mackay Sulphate of Potash Project** to identify additional avoidance and mitigation measures to further minimise environmental impacts and improve environmental outcomes.

The Agrimin Limited proposal, located near the Northern Territory border about 490 kilometres south of Halls Creek, proposed trenches and solar evaporation ponds, renewable energy and processing infrastructure, and a 350-kilometre sealed haul road to connect the site with the public Tanami Highway Road network.

The project had the potential to result in significant impacts to the night parrot, greater bilby and great desert skink, hence EPA Report 1777 recommended the proposal be implemented subject to strict conditions.

One of the key areas of assessment was the haul road for trucking the fertiliser product to Wyndham. Following consultation with Traditional Owner groups, the proponent realigned the proposed haul road to reduce the clearing of native vegetation and consequent potential impact on the critically endangered night parrot. Typically, a minimum buffer distance of 100 metres is generally accepted to avoid disturbance around bird roosts, however, to provide greater protection and improved environmental outcomes, the EPA recommended a 300-metre buffer.

There were no appeals, and the Minister for the Environment approved the project under Ministerial Statement 1244 (MS1244) in January 2025.

A proposal to extend Robe River Mining's West Angelas iron ore operation was also recommended for environmental approval during 2024–25.



West Angelas mine site

The **West Angelas Revised Proposal**, located 130 kilometres north-west of Newman, is one of 14 iron ore proposals currently being considered by the EPA under section 38 of the EP Act.

The proposal includes the development of new above- and below- water table deposits and associated activities to continue the life of the existing approved mine.

During the EIA process, the EPA considered the cumulative impacts of current and future proposals in the vicinity, as well as the key environmental factors of flora and vegetation, subterranean and terrestrial fauna, inland waters, GHG emissions and social surroundings.

To protect environmental and cultural values within the adjacent Karijini National Park, we recommended conditions for inland waters and dust.

Conditions included the submission of a performance report to demonstrate the effectiveness of mitigation measures to manage impacts and monitor efforts to meet the EPA's objectives.

During the course of the assessment, the proponent added solar energy generation to the project and reduced its proposed clearing by 25 per cent.

The EPA's report acknowledged that the proposal had been designed to avoid significant impacts to groundwater, and mining exclusion zones had also been applied within the development envelope to avoid significant impacts to culturally significant areas as well as to ghost bat roosts. We also noted that the proposal would use the company's existing infrastructure, including railway and ports, power, communication and road networks.



## Green Energy projects

During 2024–25 the EPA finalised several assessments for projects meeting the government's Green Energy criteria across the critical minerals' portfolio. While several renewable projects were referred, the Western Green Energy Hub is a particularly interesting and large-scale renewable proposal currently under assessment.

The **Wingellina Nickel-Cobalt Project (Wingellina)** is considered the largest undeveloped nickel-cobalt project in Australia. The project is part of the NiCo Resources Central Musgrave Project which straddles the triple-point of the borders of Western Australia, the Northern Territory and South Australia. The project has recently been awarded Commonwealth Major Project Status with access to the Major Projects Facilitation Agency for support. The project has a current Ministerial Statement 1034 (MS1034) approved in June 2016.

As nickel is identified as a critical mineral in the *Western Australian Battery and Critical Mineral Prospectus*, this project was categorised for assessment under the government's

dedicated Green Energy Approval Initiative.

The construction and operation of the mine in the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku, 1,400 kilometres north-east of Perth, was granted approval in September 2016. An inquiry into conditions 3 and 6 of MS1034 under section 46 of the EP Act was requested in 2023, relating to the time limit for proposal implementation and a flora species survey plan.

The EPA considered that the environmental factors of the proposal had not changed significantly from those originally assessed in EPA Report 1568 (June 2016). We did, however, also consider social surroundings (Aboriginal cultural heritage) and GHG emissions as part of our inquiry.

It was determined that while retaining the environmental requirements of the original conditions of MS 1034, it was appropriate to replace condition 3 with a new implementation condition extending the authorised timeframe for substantial commencement of the proposal by five years.

Given the potentially new species from the original proposal had

been reclassified as priority 3, we determined the updated classification and distribution of *Goodenia sp. aff. quasilibera* meant that it was appropriate to remove implementation condition 6.

A new condition was added (condition 6) requiring the proponent to avoid significant cultural heritage values, as identified in consultation with Traditional Owners, and to consult with community regarding potential impacts to amenity. The timely assessment was well received by the proponent as they progress work to develop the Central Musgraves Project.

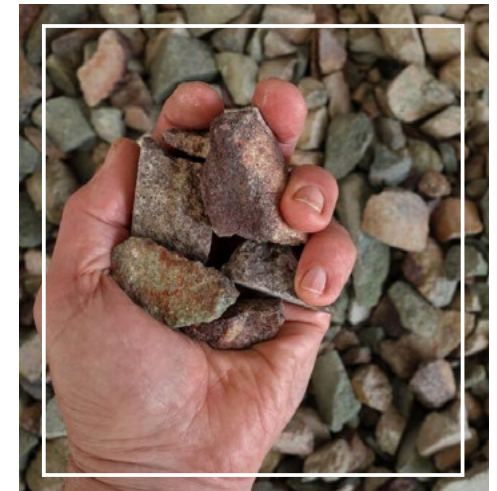
The **Western Green Energy Hub (WGEH)** proposal was referred to the EPA in late 2024 with a level of assessment set at public environmental review.

The WGEH proposal is to design, construct and operate a large-scale hybrid wind and solar energy facility, and renewables-based hydrogen production (from green ammonia) in the far south-east of Western Australia, about 440 kilometres east of Kalgoorlie (north-east of Eucla). The full-scale proposal could generate more than

200 terawatt-hours of renewable energy across a development envelope of about 22,690 square kilometres.

The EPA recommended an EPA-prepared environmental scoping document to outline all the information required in the environmental review document, to inform the EIA process. We also recommended a public review period of 10 weeks for the Environmental Review Document.

There are potential impacts from the proposal on benthic communities and habitats, coastal processes, marine environmental quality, marine fauna,





Potential night parrot habitat, Woodie Woodie

flora and vegetation, terrestrial fauna, subterranean fauna, landforms, inland waters, GHG emissions and social surroundings (11 factors in total).

The onshore component is proposed on Crown land and pastoral leases and will comprise wind turbines and solar farms. Centrally sited hydrogen electrolyzers, data centres and electrical equipment, amongst other infrastructure, are proposed. An infrastructure corridor to the coast will link to coastal and offshore components, including a marine offloading facility, desalination plant, brine discharge pipeline and an ammonia export pipeline, set within state waters.

With about 3,000 turbines and up to 35 solar farms proposed, as well as supporting infrastructure, the proposal has a long lead time and is expected to have a maximum life of 100 years.

Consolidated Minerals referred its **Woodie Continued Operations Project** to the EPA to expand the existing Woodie Woodie manganese mine to enable continued operations. The mine is located 100 kilometres east of Marble Bar. Manganese is considered a critical mineral and contributor to clean energy technology.

While not previously subject to a Ministerial Statement under Part IV of the EP Act, the site has an existing Part V licence.

The proposal included newly formed satellite pits, additional above-and below-water table pits, extraction and discharge of up to 40 gigalitres of groundwater per year, as well as supporting miscellaneous infrastructure.

The proposal footprint is 12,708 hectares, with up to 2,340 hectares of new native vegetation clearing, plus the existing clearing (2,670 hectares) approved under previous clearing permits.

Environmental values considered relevant to the proposal were flora and vegetation, terrestrial fauna, inland waters and social surroundings. Given the elapsed time from the referral, some updates to information were required, and the likelihood of the elusive night parrot being present had increased, which also required additional work by the proponent. The EPA published the proponent's environmental review document for two weeks in July 2024 and considered comments received in the assessment.

By applying the mitigation hierarchy, the proponent was able to avoid some priority areas during the assessment and an amendment during assessment under section 43A was required to update the proposal.

Contribution to the Pilbara Environmental Offsets Fund was required to offset the residual impacts to flora and fauna habitats, including critical roosting and foraging/ supporting habitat which could support the night parrot. Ministerial Statement 1245 (MS1245) was published on 21 January 2025 and conditioned progressive rehabilitation to ensure the proponent works towards meeting closure objectives, seasonal avoidance areas, a *Significant Species Management Plan* and environmental outcomes for Aboriginal Heritage.



Woodie Woodie mine pit



## Outcome of appeals

**Appeals against decisions or recommendations of the EPA are lodged with the Minister for the Environment through the Office of the Appeals Convenor. During 2024–25 there were 22 Ministerial Statements issued for proposals or schemes assessed by the EPA, of which 19 were subject to the appeals process, with 12 of those receiving appeals.**

During 2024-25, the appeals process resulted in changes to the EPA recommended conditions for four assessments. These changes related to the Worsley Mine Expansion assessed under s.38, and three planning schemes assessed under s. 48A (City of Gosnells Amendments 166 and 169 to Local Planning Scheme 6, and Metropolitan Region Scheme Amendment 1344/57 (Maida Vale)). Planning Schemes are not often assessed by the EPA, and the Maida Vale amendment was the first region scheme amendment to be formally assessed by the EPA in over 10 years.

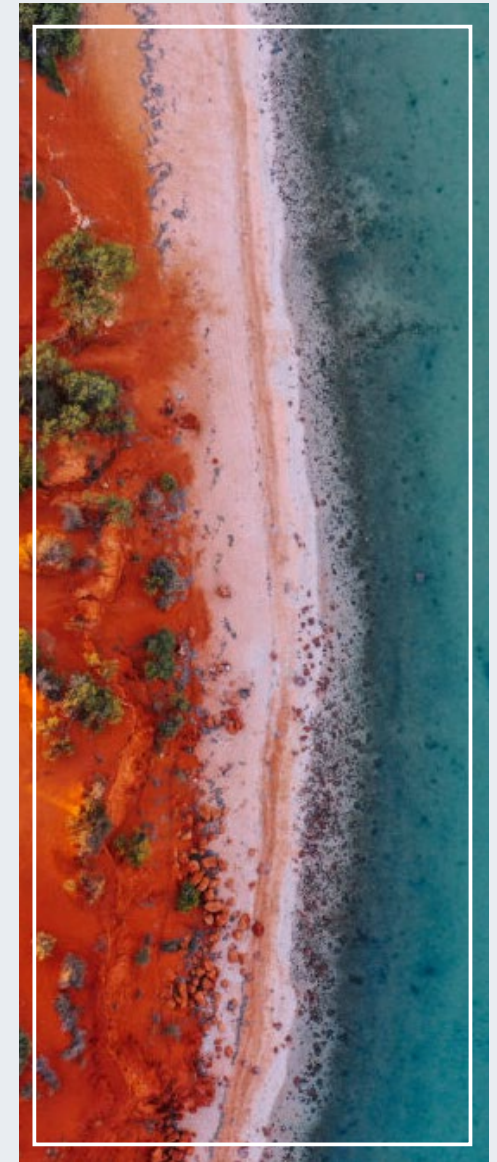
When a planning scheme is assessed, the Minister for the Environment and Minister for Planning need to agree to the conditions for schemes before they are inserted into the relevant planning scheme. After the release of the EPA's

reports for these scheme assessments, a cross-department working group was established between DWER and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage (DPLH) to ensure robust conditions were defined. The changes have resulted in improved conditions and environmental outcomes for key environmental values and planning schemes. These have led to the detailed post-assessment condition refinement processes which have resulted in important learnings for future condition sets.

When the EPA decides not to assess a proposal, we determine that the likely effect on the environment is not so significant as to warrant our assessment. In these instances, we provide a summary of the reasons for our decision not to assess and may also give advice and make

recommendations on the proposal's environmental aspects to the proponent or any other relevant person or authority.

Following amendments to the EP Act in 2024 ([Environmental Protection Amendment Bill 2024](#)), the EPA's decision not to assess a proposal cannot be appealed. Before these amendments came into effect in October 2024, no appeals on an EPA decision to not assess a proposal were made in 2024–25.



## Considering key infrastructure proposals

In April 2024 the Director General of the Department of Transport referred a proposal to the EPA to develop Kwinana's outer harbour.

The **Outer Harbour Port Development, Kwinana** is the main component of the Westport Program which aims to move container trade from Fremantle to Kwinana. It comprises the construction and operation of the multimodal port, landside infrastructure, berthing areas, removal of two Kwinana bulk berth jetties, connections to the road and rail freight network up to the intersection of Anketell and Rockingham roads, and dredging for a second shipping channel into Cockburn Sound.

The scale of the proposal and its location means there is the potential for significant environmental impacts, particularly during the dredging and reclamation stages of construction, hence the EPA is assessing this project at the level of public environmental review. The Commonwealth is also assessing the project under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

In November 2024 the EPA published the draft environmental scoping document for a two-week public review. This is the document that defines the form, content, timing and procedure of the environmental review. Some 35 submissions were considered by the EPA and the proponent submitted its revised scoping document in January 2025. The proponent's response to submitters' concerns was published in February 2025.

The proponent is now drafting its environmental review document. When this has been accepted by the EPA it will be published for eight weeks of public consultation.

A related component of the Westport program is the Main Roads proposal to upgrade and widen Anketell Road for about 7.5 kilometres between Leath Road and the Kwinana Freeway in Kwinana.

We are assessing this **Anketell Road Upgrade** proposal at the level of referral information with additional information, including a four-week public review.



Anketell Road Upgrade (Leath Road to Kwinana Freeway). Indicative only and subject to change.

The proposal includes grade-separated interchanges at six locations, grade separation of road over rail at two locations, as well as drains and other related infrastructure, and is aimed at connecting the Kwinana Freeway with the strategic Kwinana Industrial Area and the proposed Westport Outer Harbour.

The total area of 224.83 hectares includes 92.22 hectares of native vegetation and there are potential impacts to Threatened Ecological Communities (Tuart and Banksia woodlands), Bush Forever sites and Class A conservation reserves. Black Cockatoo habitat, as well as habitat for the Quenda, Chuditch and other fauna, are also likely to be impacted.





Proposed Outer Harbour Port Development, Kwinana





## Focus – environmental outcomes

## Cumulative impacts in the Northern Jarrah Forest

**The Northern Jarrah Forest (NJF) runs below the Darling Scarp from the Julimar State Forest north of Toodyay to just south of Collie – a belt more than 250 kilometres long and up to 70 kilometres wide.**

A long history of development, both from existing mining and areas proposed for further bauxite extraction, has meant that the extent of how much NJF has been cleared is undocumented. In addition, there are significant knowledge gaps in the State Government's data and information on the NJF, particularly on issues such as climate change, stochastic events (e.g. wildfire), clearing (approved and illegal), rehabilitation, pathogens, weeds and feral animals.

The EPA has long held the view that the long-term, cumulative impacts of disturbance to the NJF should be considered. In the face of current and future pressures on this unique and complex ecosystem, we have embarked on preliminary cumulative analysis work to close out some of the significant knowledge and information gaps around the known and unknown pressures on the forest ecosystem.

The EPA anticipates this cumulative analysis will also include a history of uses of the NJF; identify the key environmental, social and cultural values of the area including relevant stakeholders and their interests; and determine the future and existing cumulative pressures and activities.

The learnings from this work will help inform the EPA's current and future environmental impact assessments on proposals in the NJF.

The EPA is currently considering two significant Alcoa of Australia Limited mining proposals in the NJF. Both the [2023–2027 Bauxite Mining Operations in the Darling Ranges](#) and the [Pinjarra Alumina Refinery Revised Proposal](#) are being assessed at the level of public environment review.

As well as 12 weeks of consultation, the EPA has met community groups to gain a further understanding of what stakeholders believe are the most critical issues.

We are also assessing Chalice Mining Ltd's [Gonneville Nickel-Copper-Platinum Group Element Project](#) in the far northern NJF.

The proposal includes an open pit and/or underground mine, waste rock landforms, ore stockpiles, topsoil and subsoil stockpiles, tailings storage, haul roads, borrow pits, ore processing and groundwater abstraction.

It will result in clearing of up to 940 hectares within a 2,240 hectare mine development envelope adjacent to the Julimar State Forest. This proposal will be subject to an eight-week public review.

The EPA is also considering a [proposed significant amendment to Newmont Boddington Gold Pty Ltd's existing mining operation](#) 12 kilometres north-west of the Boddington townsite.

Newmont Boddington is proposing an additional 1,560 hectares of disturbance, of which 528 hectares is native vegetation.

The area surrounding the Boddington Mine formed part of the EPA's recent environmental impact assessment for the Worsley Mine Expansion – Revised Proposal.

Alcoa site visit

Northern Jarrah Forest © WA Tourism



## Creating opportunities for innovative engagement

**The EPA believes that meaningful engagement with stakeholders achieves the best-possible environmental outcomes.**

During 2024–25, we looked at more innovative ways to foster strong collaboration with both industry and the community.

We recognise that engagement is best when a genuine feedback loop is created and that this should be front and centre of the EIA process to ensure stakeholders and members exchange relevant information to work through the complexities of environmental protection. We also consider that engaging with stakeholders across all sectors and regions of Western Australia brings a unique perspective to assessments and policy development.

The EPA wants an open-door policy with industry proponents, and equally with the community, because we need to make sure we are considering a broad range of views.

This year the EPA engaged with peak representative groups and industry stakeholders on a range of policy items under development and review. This

included updates to the [Environmental Factor Guideline – Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#) and development of the new EIA Practice Guide. In drafting the new EIA Practice Guide in particular, the EPA held online information sessions to inform key stakeholders of the change, as well as individual briefings to discuss the guide in more detail and to inform a submission for EPA consideration.

Additionally, we have tailored our approach to engagement for EIA to ensure it meets the exact requirements of work the EPA is consulting on.

In May 2025 the EPA took the unusual step of seeking public comment on amendments to Woodside's [Proposed Browse to North West Shelf Development](#).

The State Waters component of the proposal to extract hydrocarbons from the Torosa reservoir, 425 kilometres north of Broome, had been under assessment by the independent Authority since 2019. During this time



EPA members meet Save Smiths Beach Action Group on site

there have been two amendments requested by the proponent, as well as an eight-week public review which attracted nearly 20,000 submissions.

The EPA considered that a significant amount of time had passed since previous consultations and the proposal had been changed a number of times since the original referral. For these reasons members considered that a four-week public review of the amendment was warranted.

The EPA decided that so much time had passed since the last public consultation that another four-week public review of the latest amendment was in order. There is no legislative requirement for additional engagement but the EPA considered it was appropriate

given the complexity and number of environmental factors in such a sensitive project area.

In addition to this public consultation, the EPA also accepted an offer from the Conservation Council of WA (CCWA) to address members. At the EPA's June meeting, CCWA's Mia Pepper and marine ecologist Dr Ben Fitzpatrick shared their concerns about the Woodside proposal, specifically potential impacts to Scott Reef.

The EPA engaged with other environmental protection advocates this financial year, including Environs Kimberley. EPA Chair Darren Walsh met executive director Martin Pritchard in Broome to listen to the group's concerns about the Browse to





Valhalla site visit



Smiths Beach site visit



Alcoa community briefings in Pinjarra



Chair Darren Walsh addresses the UDIA

NW Shelf project, Tassal's [proposed barramundi farm expansion across the Buccaneer Archipelago](#), and the [Valhalla unconventional exploration drilling and hydraulic fracture stimulation proposal](#).

The Chair also visited the Kimberley to discuss the Valhalla proposal with the Yungngora Traditional Owners at Nookanbah Station and the Martuwarra Fitzroy River, south of Fitzroy Crossing.

During 2024–25 the EPA also engaged with the City of Busselton and the Smiths Beach Action Group during a site visit to the proposed Smiths Beach Project Yallingup – Coastal Tourism Village. This provided an opportunity for both parties to share specific concerns about the proposal and ask members about the assessment process.

We engaged with stakeholders using different mediums this year and for the first time released videos to help industry and the community understand the EIA process.

Deputy Chair [Lee McIntosh explained the role of the EPA](#) and how the EPA had evolved over the five decades of its existence. Another video on [navigating EIA was created](#) and shared with stakeholders on the EPA website.

One of the most bespoke exercises in engagement was launched during the public review of Alcoa's Pinjarra Alumina Refinery Revised Proposal and Alcoa's current and proposed mining operations on the Darling Range for 2023-2027, more commonly referred to as the MMPs (Mining and Management Programs).

We undertook in-person briefings with community group representatives to ensure all information and concerns were captured in our assessments of these Alcoa proposals.

The briefings were designed to engage with one or two representatives from community groups, who could then share the information with their membership. We believed this was an

effective way of ensuring submissions to the public review process were well informed.

Those invited to participate were drawn from parties who had regularly engaged with the EPA on issues within the NJF. These include Traditional Owners, Local Government, and a variety of community, recreation, health and conservation advocates.

The first series of meetings were held in Pinjarra and more followed in Perth. We decided that holding the briefings during the early days of the public review would give stakeholders some time to digest the information published, so that they could attend the meetings equipped with some knowledge of what might be important to submissions.

While there's no statutory requirement for this sort of personalised consultation, the EPA values input from the community in our assessment process and, where needed, we will continue to tailor our approach.

As well as community briefings, the EPA Chair also regularly engaged with industry member organisations. These included keynote addresses, panel discussions and information sessions on the EPA's vision, priorities and initiatives for streamlining environmental assessment processes. This included Western Australia's Urban Development Institute of Australia annual conference, the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies forum and the Environmental Consultants Association annual symposium.



Deputy Chair Lee McIntosh



# Outcomes of the independent review of processes

During the past year the State Government has overhauled the environmental approvals system following the Vogel-McFerran Review; that is, the independent review of Western Australia’s environmental approvals processes and procedures.

The Review resulted in 39 recommendations, of which the independent EPA was required to address 13 and have oversight of multiple others.

As of 30 June 2025, all the recommendations for which the EPA have oversight have been completed. Some of which include the following:

- EPA to report to Council of Regulators on use of EP Act provisions in sections 38G and 44 that enable other regulators to mitigate environmental effects for Aboriginal cultural heritage and greenhouse gas emissions – **Presentation and agreement with Council of Regulators complete**
- Rapid analysis of ‘assessment on referral information’ level of assessment – **Analysis completed and recommendations included in the EPA’s update to its EIA procedures suite**
- Proponents of significant proposals/projects to be offered

the opportunity to meet with the EPA board at least once during the assessment process and potentially more for contentious or complex proposals – **Proponent meetings offered as the standard approach and EPA stakeholder engagement plan published**

- Review of EPA policy and decision-making procedures during assessments to ensure the extent to which the requirements or provisions agreed to, by the EPA on referral, prevail – **Review of the procedures complete, with the EIA procedures suite currently being updated to incorporate the recommendations**
- Establishment of EPA advisory committees and paid subject matter experts, including EIA practitioners, to provide advice to the EPA on technical and implementation aspects of draft Guidance – **Environmental assessments panel is established and actively used by DWER to support the EPA**

## Statement of Expectation

In October 2024, the EP Act was amended to provide for the Minister for the Environment to issue a Statement of Expectation to the EPA. The issuing of a Statement of Expectation was a recommendation arising from the Vogel-McFerran Review. It provides a clear and transparent mechanism for the government to outline expectations and priorities, while recognising the EPA's independence and the role it plays in protecting the environment and preventing, controlling and abating pollution. Similar approaches are also in place in other jurisdictions in Australia, such as in the Northern Territory.

Consistent with the new section 21B of the EP Act, the Minister for the Environment issued the Statement of Expectation in November 2024. The EPA published this Statement on its website as required by section 21E of the EP Act. The provisions of the EP Act allow the Minister to amend Statement at any time and require a new or amended Statement to be issued at least every four years. The EPA must have regard to this Statement in performing its functions.

The November 2024 statement outlines the Minister's expectations across four key areas aimed at improving the efficiency of environmental assessments, engagement with proponents, and interactions with government agencies. In addition, the Statement outlined the government's key strategic priorities that will require significant and ongoing interaction with the EPA. The Statement also outlines that the EPA must report on how it has regard for the Statement in its Annual Report (refer to Table 2).

The EPA welcomed the clarity on government's objectives and expectations and has taken steps to implement some of the State Government's key strategic priorities, including:

- **Westport** – we have completed the scoping process, which incorporated a public review, and published the final environmental scoping document in February 2025.
- **Alkimos Seawater Desalination Plant** – The EPA Chair has approved several changes to the proposal and conditions to Ministerial Statement 1207 (MS1207), with EPA Services staff having assessed and approved two pre-construction environmental management plans.

- **Western Australia's renewable energy transition and critical mineral projects** – we have determined that five referred proposals are not so significant as to warrant formal assessment and that other decision-making processes can mitigate potential environmental impacts. This is in addition to completing the assessments for the Wingellina Nickel-Cobalt project and Woodie Continued Operations Project and progressing the assessment of the Western Green Energy Hub.
- **Key tourism proposals** – we have finalised the assessments for a number of key tourism proposals including the Gnarabup Tourism Development Resort and Beach Village and the South Thomson Development Barge Landing Project. We have made significant progress in the assessment process for the Smiths Beach Project Yallingup – Coastal Tourism Village.



Table 2

Expectations	Actions	EPA Progress
Alignment with policies and priorities	When determining assessment priorities and escalation, consider key government priorities and policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA has considered the government’s assessment priorities by completing and publishing our reports for five assessments that will facilitate job creation in 2045–25. Furthermore, we have completed and published our reports for a further six assessments for revised proposals that will maintain jobs. We have discussed a number of these above.</li> </ul>
	Where consistent with the Act, adopt processes and initiatives to ensure a streamlined approach to regulatory assessment that reduces unnecessary duplication.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EPA is amending its EIA procedures suite to reduce duplication and look for opportunities to streamline the assessment process.</li> <li>The EPA supports the three Memorandum of Understandings with other government agencies to streamline and clarify agency involvement in the Part IV EIA process.</li> </ul>
Efficiency and timeliness of environmental assessments	Ensure environmental assessments are completed in a timely and efficient manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DWER has developed internal reporting tools to support the EPA through providing greater visibility and tracking of proposals and schemes that are under assessment, including progress against anticipated timeframes.</li> </ul>
	Develop and report on performance metrics for environmental impact assessment processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DWER has updated the regulatory performance reports with additional EIA metrics, and these reports will be available later in 2025.</li> </ul>
	Ensure risk-based assessment principles and streamlined processes are ingrained into the operation of the EPA where the Act permits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EPA supports the use of streamlined processes and considers recent EP Act Amendments are likely to assist, particularly the amendments regarding parallel assessments and approvals.</li> <li>The EPA are reviewing its EIA procedures to create a new EIA Practice Guide to incorporate streamlined processes where possible.</li> </ul>
	Review EPA’s technical guidance suite to ensure it reflects contemporary scientific understanding and consideration of risk-based approaches to biodiversity protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EPA completed a review of its policy and procedures review in late 2024, with the recommendations currently being addressed through planned updates to the policy suite.</li> <li>The EPA are currently preparing updated guidance to contemporise <i>Guidance Statement 6 – Rehabilitation of Terrestrial Ecosystems</i> to reflect current scientific understanding.</li> </ul>
	Support the establishment of subject matter expert advisory committees to provide advice on draft guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EPA has continued to utilise the expertise of the Scientific Advisory Council, created in August 2024, to both provide briefings on key environmental matters and to provide ad hoc advice as necessary. The EPA has also utilised the subject matter expert panels established by DWER to support assessments, reduce EIA timeframes and manage workload.</li> </ul>



Expectations	Actions	EPA Progress
Reducing duplication	Reduce duplication of environmental assessments of projects and proposals where the Act permits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The EPA has considered the ability of other agencies to mitigate the potential environmental impacts of proposals in determining whether a proposal requires assessment under Part IV, thereby reducing duplication. In 2024–25, in determining that a referral was not so significant to warrant assessment under Part IV, the EPA considered other decision-making processes could assist in mitigating the impacts for 80 per cent of these referrals.</li> </ul>
	Support reporting to the Council of Regulators on the extent to which the EPA is using relevant sections in the Act to enable other regulators/decision-making authorities to regulate cultural aspects of social surroundings and greenhouse gas emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial presentation provided to Council of Regulators in August 2024.</li> </ul>
	Review EPA policies in response to the State Government's revised Greenhouse Gas Emissions Policy for Major Projects 2024 (October 2024).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated Environmental Factor Guideline – GHG emissions, published in November 2024.</li> </ul>
Engagement with proponents	Establish a stakeholder engagement plan that outlines proponent roles and responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Published in December 2024.</li> </ul>
	Adopt procedures and processes which provide a framework for collaborative and transparent communication with proponents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proponents have the opportunity for regular meetings with the EPA Chair in addition to being invited to attend the primary meeting when EPA members are considering the assessment at a critical stage, as standard practice.</li> <li>Quarterly meetings with industry representatives held via the Stakeholder Reference Group.</li> </ul>
	Support implementation of an escalation protocol which proponents can access when delays or requests for information in relation to the EPA's functions are considered unreasonable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA supports use of the Escalation Protocol for EIA to support issues that arise during the EIA process.</li> </ul>





## Adapting to new Act amendments

In 2024-25, amendments were made to the EP Act to legislate recommendations made as part of the 2023 Vogel-McFerran Review. During October and November 2024, these new provisions came into effect.

These amendments were to:

- expand the EPA from five to up to nine members and identify the range of skillsets that members should have
- provide for the Minister for the Environment to issue a Statement of Expectation to outline the government's goals, expectations and key priorities as they relate to the function of the EPA
- require the EPA to publish a summary of reasons if it determines not to assess a referred proposal
- remove the ability of any person to appeal a decision of the EPA not to assess a referred proposal
- change the provisions that prevented a decision-making authority from making decisions in parallel to an EPA assessment.

The EPA amended its *Administrative Procedures* to accurately reflect these new provisions, and the *Environmental Impact Assessment (Part IV Divisions 1 And 2) Administrative Procedures 2024* was published in the Government Gazette on 10 December 2024.

## Our Strategic Plan

The EPA's current goals and priorities are set out in its *Strategic Plan 2023–2026*. However, with the expansion of the EPA board from five to up to nine members, and considering the reforms and improvements implemented as part of the Vogel-McFerran review, the EPA considers it an opportune time to consider next steps.

The EPA took the opportunity to come together in June 2025 to reflect on what had been achieved from the current Strategic Plan, and to consider what improvements and learnings could be incorporated into a new Strategic Plan.

We also looked forward, discussing likely challenges and priorities that may arise in the next five to 10 years, as well as key government objectives such as those outlined in the Statement of Expectation.



## Engagement with stakeholders



## Scientific Advisory Council

The EPA's Scientific Advisory Council (SAC) proactively engages key research partners and experts in institutions and government to enhance and promote environmental protection knowledge and understanding.

The SAC was established in May 2024. It consists of subject matter experts which correspond to the EPA's themes for environmental factors and objectives – sea, land, water, air and people – as well as for EIA and science. SAC experts span government, industry, the private sector and universities. Membership is by invitation from the EPA and is for a period of three years.

SAC members will usually be invited to attend an EPA meeting when expert advice is required for significant or emerging environmental assessment and protection issues in their field. They may also be asked to provide high-level counsel on an ad hoc basis.

A range of SAC members, including Professor Stephen van Leeuwen, Dr Mike Bamford, Dr Renee Young and Professor Philip Commander, addressed EPA meetings during 2024–25.

The SAC's establishment fulfils a commitment outlined in the *EPA's Strategic Plan 2023–26* to proactively engage with key research partners and experts in institutions and government to enhance and promote environmental protection knowledge and understanding.

Renewed engagement with the SAC to conduct theme-based seminar sessions has begun, and two are planned for later in 2025.



SAC members Greg Woodman, Mike Bamford, and Jason Hick with EPA Chair Darren Walsh

## EPA meetings

During 2024–25, the EPA met 12 times. At these meetings, we met proponents of development proposals, received briefings from specialists on strategic environmental matters, and continued to review governance documents. The EPA finalised its advice on development proposals, strategic matters and submissions on draft government policies.

In response to a recommendation of the Vogel-McFerran Review that the EPA should have a presence in Perth's central business district, we held our meetings at 66 St Georges Terrace. When the EPA grew to nine members after the EP Act was amended, we moved the meetings back to Prime House in Joondalup for extra capacity.

The option to participate via Microsoft Teams (Teams) continues to be a useful tool for members. Teams also allows for officers to attend as observers to witness the final stage of their assessment or for the purposes of education.

The EPA also made four decisions without meetings, in accordance with the provisions of the new section 14A of the EP Act. Throughout the year Darren Walsh and Lee McIntosh provided leadership as Chair and Deputy Chair.

In October 2024, the Authority said farewell to Professor Fiona Haslam-McKenzie, who had served the Authority since October 2019.

Karen Caple filled this vacancy in October 2024. The increase in EPA membership saw the EPA welcome Kelly Faulkner and Dr Luke Twomey in December 2024 and Anthony Sutton and Professor David Caddy in January 2025.

### EPA meetings 2024–25

	Darren Walsh	Lee McIntosh	Fiona McKenzie	Hamish Beck	Jane Bennett	Karen Caple	Luke Twomey	Kelly Faulkner	Anthony Sutton	David Caddy
18 July 2024 Prime House, Joondalup	✓	✓	✓	Apology	✓ (T)					
15 August 2024 66 St Georges Terrace, Perth	✓	✓	✓ (T)	Apology	✓					
19 September 2024 66 St Georges Terrace, Perth	✓	✓	Apology	✓ (T)	✓					
17 October 2024 66 St Georges Terrace, Perth	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				
14 November 2024 66 St Georges Terrace, Perth	✓	✓		✓	✓	Apology				



## EPA meetings 2024–25 (cont.)

	Darren Walsh	Lee McIntosh	Fiona McKenzie	Hamish Beck	Jane Bennett	Karen Caple	Luke Twomey	Kelly Faulkner	Anthony Sutton	David Caddy
21 November 2024 Prime House, Joondalup	✓	✓		✓(T)	✓	✓				
12 December 2024 Prime House, Joondalup	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓(T)	✓		
20 February 2025 Prime House, Joondalup	✓	✓		Apology	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
20 March 2025 Prime House, Joondalup	✓	✓		Apology	✓	✓	Apology	Apology	✓	✓
10 April 2025 Prime House, Joondalup	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
15 May 2025 Prime House, Joondalup	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓(T)	✓
19 June 2025 Prime House, Joondalup	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Participation</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

## Authority decisions without meeting (section 14A) – Conducted via email circular

20 December 2024	✓	Apology	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
20 December 2024	✓	Apology	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
23 December 2024	✓	Apology	Apology	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
29 January 2025	✓	Apology	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>Participation</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

(T) attended via Teams



## Panel delegations

The EPA has procedures in place to manage all members' direct and indirect conflicts of interest.

Three EPA members constitute a quorum. In the event of conflicts of interest resulting in less than three members able to vote on a matter, the Authority may resolve to delegate to a panel.

The increase in member numbers provided an increase in non-conflicted members and the EPA revoked three delegated EPA assessment panels in January 2025.

The Minister must approve all EPA assessment panels.

## Site visits

The EPA is committed to a practical approach to site visits to experience and appreciate environmental settings and the constraints of proposals. Site visits enable discussion of aspects of proposals in the field with subject matter experts, and engagement with community.

Site visits are generally undertaken after the public review of the proponent's environmental review document. At this stage, with the available technical and public information on hand, the EPA is well informed on key environmental issues that could impact on elements of the proposal in question.

## EPA site visits 2024–25

Month	Who attended	Name of Assessment in EO	Proponent Name
July	Darren Walsh, Lee McIntosh	• Brockman Syncline Proposal – S45A	Hamersley Iron Pty. Limited
August	Darren Walsh, Lee McIntosh	• Limestone and Sand Quarry Lot 1002 Preston Beach – s43A	The Eddy Doyle Trust
September	*Delegated Panel	• Smiths Beach Project, Yallingup – Coastal Tourism Village	Smiths 2014 Pty Ltd
October	Darren Walsh, Hamish Beck	• Woodie Continued Operations Project	Consolidated Minerals Pty Limited
	Darren Walsh, Jane Bennett	• Arrowsmith North Silica Sand Project	VRX Silica Limited
November	Hamish Beck, Lee McIntosh	• Munglinup Graphite Project	MRC Graphite Pty Ltd
	Darren Walsh, Jane Bennett	• Gnarabup Tourism Development - Resort and Beach Village	The Trustee for 5 Star Margaret River Unit Trust
February	Darren Walsh, Anthony Sutton, Kelly Faulkner, Luke Twomey	• Urban Development of Lots 11 and 74 Beenyp Road Banjup	The Trustee for Aigle Royal Group Discretionary Trust
March	Darren Walsh, Lee McIntosh, Jane Bennett, Karen Caple, Kelly Faulkner, David Caddy, Luke Twomey, Hamish Beck	• Pinjarra Alumina Refinery Revised Proposal	Alcoa of Australia Ltd
	Anthony Sutton, Karen Caple	• Amendment 1388/57 – Wattle Grove South	Western Australian Planning Commission
May	Darren Walsh, Kelly Faulkner	• Hemi Gold Project	De Grey Mining Ltd
	Darren Walsh	• Valhalla Gas Exploration and Appraisal Program	Bennett Resources Pty Ltd
June	Darren Walsh, Luke Twomey	• Ocean Barramundi Expansion Project	Tassal Operations Pty Ltd

\*Delegation No. 58 ([Gazette 151 of 2023](#))



# Stakeholder Reference Group

The EPA's Stakeholder Reference Group (SRG) invites representation from key external stakeholders and peak industry bodies. Members can provide input to our guidelines, processes and performance. During the year, the SRG met four times in the EPA hub in Perth's central business district.

The SRG provided valued feedback on several important EPA initiatives, including the Guideline on cumulative and holistic impact assessment, the EIA practice guide, the EPA policy and procedure review, the revised *Environmental Factor Guideline – Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, and DWER's environmental protection (cost recovery) regulatory review.

At 30 June 2025, core membership of the Stakeholder Reference Group comprised:

**Conservation**

- Conservation Council of WA
- The Wilderness Society
- Environmental Defenders Office
- Environmental Institute of Australia & New Zealand
- Environmental Consultants Association
- Natural Resources Management WA
- Urban Bushland Council
- National Environmental Law Association

**Planning**

- Urban Development Institute of Australia
- WA Local Government Association
- WA Planning Commission

**Resources industry**

- Association of Mining and Exploration Companies
- Australian Energy Producers
- Chamber of Minerals and Energy

**Agriculture**

- WA Farmers Federation
- Recfishwest
- WA Fishing Council
- Pastoralists & Graziers Association

# Have your say

## The EPA values genuine public engagement and considers that feedback has a crucial role in assessments.

The first opportunity members of the community have to express opinions and concerns is during the referral stage of the process.

Referrals are available for a seven-day public comment period, after which the EPA considers submissions and advice obtained. From there, the EPA decides whether to assess the proposal and, if so, the level of assessment.

During the 2024–25 financial year, there were 35,885 submissions relating to 52 proposals via the EPA's Consultation Hub.

During EIAs, the EPA will usually provide additional consultation opportunities.

Obtaining public feedback ensures the EPA's policy and guidance competently supports protection of the environment and the creation of strategic advice under the EP Act.

In 2024–25 the largest public response came from a four-week public comment period for a proposed amendment to Woodside's [Proposed Browse to North West Shelf Development](#).

The EPA received an estimated 17,700 submissions, of which more than 90 per cent were proforma or group-based submissions.

Table 3 – number of comments received

Type of consultation	Number	Number of comments
Proposals under assessment	19	34,652
Seven-day comment on referrals	33	1,233



# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Referrals received and levels of assessment

### Proposals referred under section 38 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Total proposals referred to the EPA under section 38	38
Determinations on whether to assess proposals referred and, if so, the level of assessment	20*
Assess – referral Information (no public review)	7
Assess – referral Information (with public review)	5
Assess – environmental review (no public review)	0
Assess – public Environmental review	5
Derived proposal	3
Not assessed – public advice given	9
Not assessed – no advice given	1
Not assessed – managed by other decision-making authorities	3

\*17 plus three derived proposals

### Schemes and scheme amendments referred under section 48A of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

Total proposals referred to the EPA under section 48A	104
Determinations on the level of assessment for schemes referred	96
Scheme Assessed (environmental review)	0
Scheme incapable of being made environmentally acceptable	0
Not assessed – public advice given	27
Not assessed – no advice given	69

## Appendix 2: Completed assessment reports

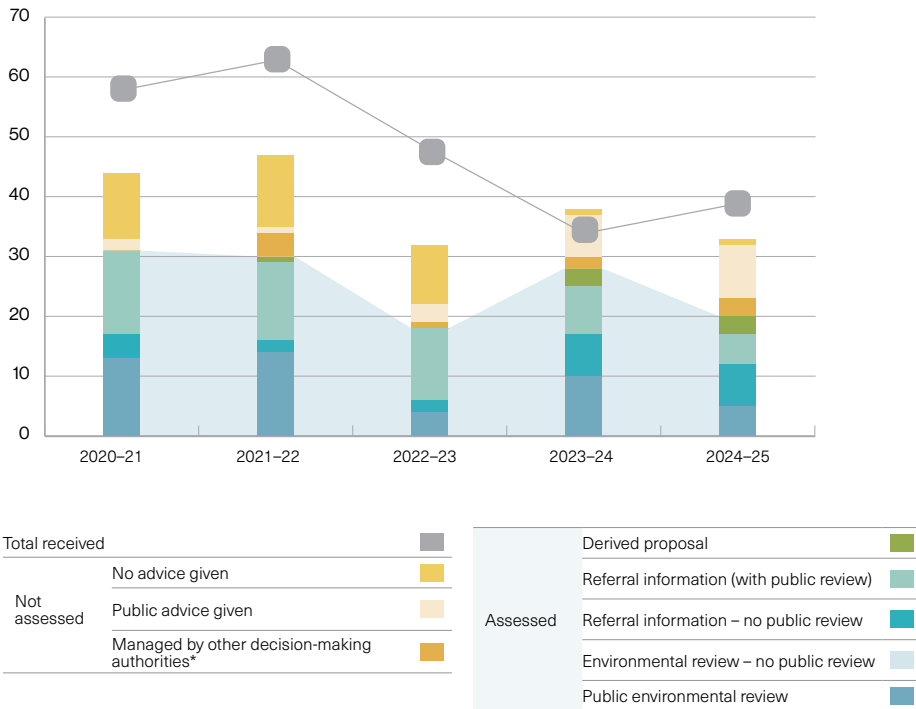
### EPA assessment reports completed in 2024–25

Report number	Public Environmental Review	Proponent	Date signed by EPA Chair
1768	Worsley Mine Expansion – Revised Proposal	South32 Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd	3 July 2024
1782	Gnarabup Tourism Development – Resort and Beach Village	Saracen Properties Pty Ltd	23 May 2025
1773	Hope Downs 2	Hamersley HMS Pty Ltd	25 November 2024
1774	Brockman Syncline Proposal	Hamersley Iron Pty Ltd	25 November 2024
1777	Mackay Sulphate of Potash Project	Agrimin Limited	7 December 2024
1778	Arrowsmith North Silica Sand Project	VRX Silica Limited	7 January 2025
1784	West Angelas Revised Proposal	Robe River Mining Co Pty Ltd	20 June 2025
Report number	Referral Information (no public review)	Proponent	Date signed by EPA Chair
1770	Pilbara Energy Project Expansion	APA DEWAP Pty Ltd	23 October 2024
1772	Kemerton Power Station Increased Operation Hours	Ratch-Australia Kemerton Pty Ltd	11 November 2024
1776	Yarnima Power Station Stage 4 (Gas Reciprocating Engines)	BHP Iron Ore Pty Ltd	29 November 2024
1780	Mt Keith Power Station Capacity Expansion Project	TEC Desert Pty Ltd /TEC Desert No.2/ Southern Cross Energy	31 March 2025
Report number	Referral Information (with public review)	Proponent	Date signed by EPA Chair
1769	Tonkin Highway Grade Separated Interchanges (Hale Road and Welshpool Road)	Commissioner of Main Roads Western Australia	31 July 2024
1771	Garden Street Extension	City of Gosnells	4 October 2024
1779	Fimiston Gold Mine Operations Extension (Stage 3) and Mine Closure Planning: Revised Proposal – Fimiston South Project	Kalgoorlie Consolidated Gold Mines Pty Ltd	30 January 2025
1783	South Thomson Development Barge Landing Project	Rottnest Island Authority	16 June 2025
1785	Hemi Gold Project	De Grey Mining Ltd	24 June 2025
1775	Woodie Continued Operations Project	Consolidated Minerals Pty Ltd Limited	29 November 2024
1786	North Kiaka Quartzite Mine	Simcoa Operations Pty Ltd	30 June 2025

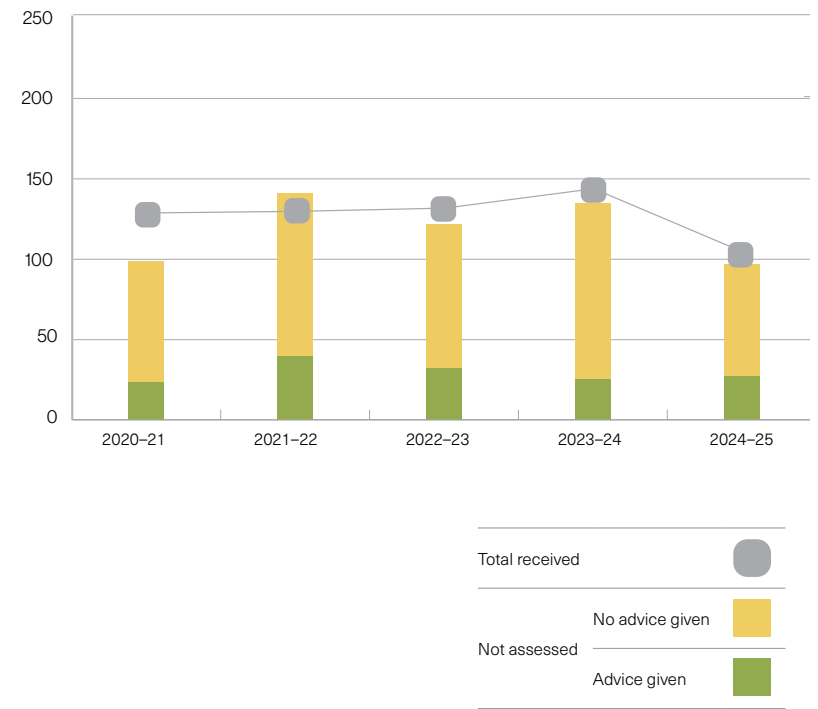


Report number	Amendment to conditions – section 46 inquiry	Proponent	Date signed by EPA Chair
1756	Subdivision (amalgamation) Lots 802, 804 and 4640 Mandurah Road, East Rockingham	TRECAP Pty Ltd	18 November 2024
1781	Gorgon Gas Development Revised and Expanded Proposal: Barrow Island Nature Reserve	Chevron Australia Pty Ltd	15 April 2025

### Total proposals referred to the EPA and decisions



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



\* Previously managed under Part V only



## Appendix 3:

EPA guidelines, procedures, templates, instructions published during 2024–25

<b>1. Procedures for environmental impact assessment</b>
Revised: <a href="#">Environmental Impact Assessment (Part IV Divisions 1 And 2) Administrative Procedures 2024</a>
Revised: <a href="#">Environmental Impact Assessment (Part IV Divisions 1 and 2) Procedures Manual Requirements under the Environmental Protection Act 1986</a>
<b>2. Environmental considerations in environmental impact assessment</b>
<b>2a. Environmental factor guidelines and technical guidance: People</b>
Revised: <a href="#">Environmental Factor Guideline – Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG)</a> (November 2024)
<b>3. EPA submissions</b>
EPA Submission to Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Safety (DCCEEW) - <a href="#">Draft National Roadmap for protecting and conserving 30% of Australia's land by 2030 (30x30 Roadmap)</a> (July 2024)
EPA Submission to Department of Planning Lands and Heritage (DPLH) - <a href="#">Urban Greening Strategy</a> (July 2024)
EPA Submission to Waste Authority - <a href="#">Revised Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy</a> (August 2024)
EPA Submission to Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) - <a href="#">Fortescue Marsh Nature Reserve (Niyiyparli Country) Draft Management Plan</a> (February 2025)





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