



Environment Protection Authority Victoria

6 March 2026

Inquiry into Decommissioning Oil & Gas Infrastructure

Dan Hunt, Director Regional Victoria Area Operations



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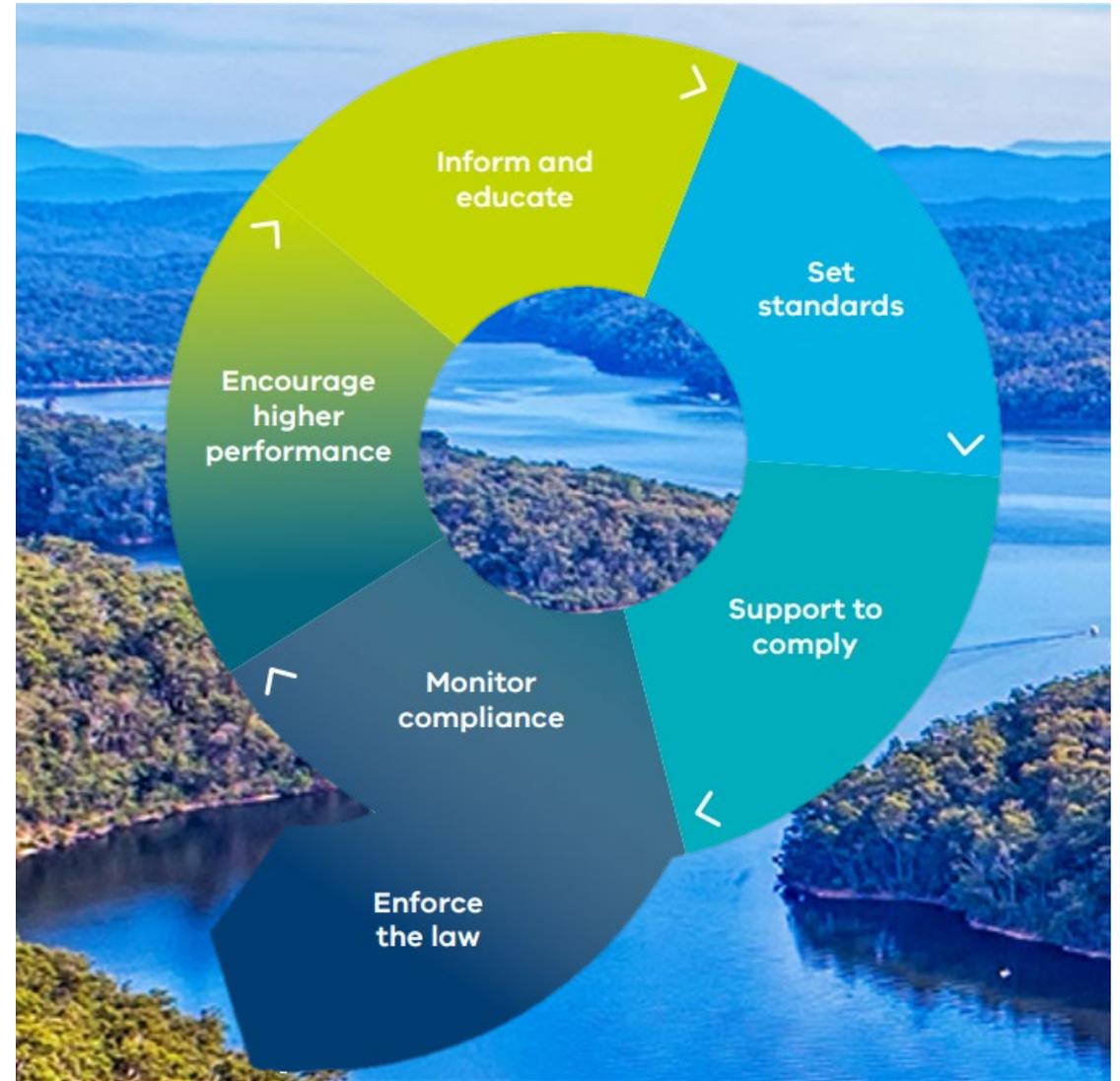
Acknowledgement

EPA acknowledges Aboriginal people as the first peoples and Traditional custodians of the land and water on which we live, work and depend. We pay respect to Aboriginal Elders past and present and recognise the continuing connection to, and aspirations for Country.



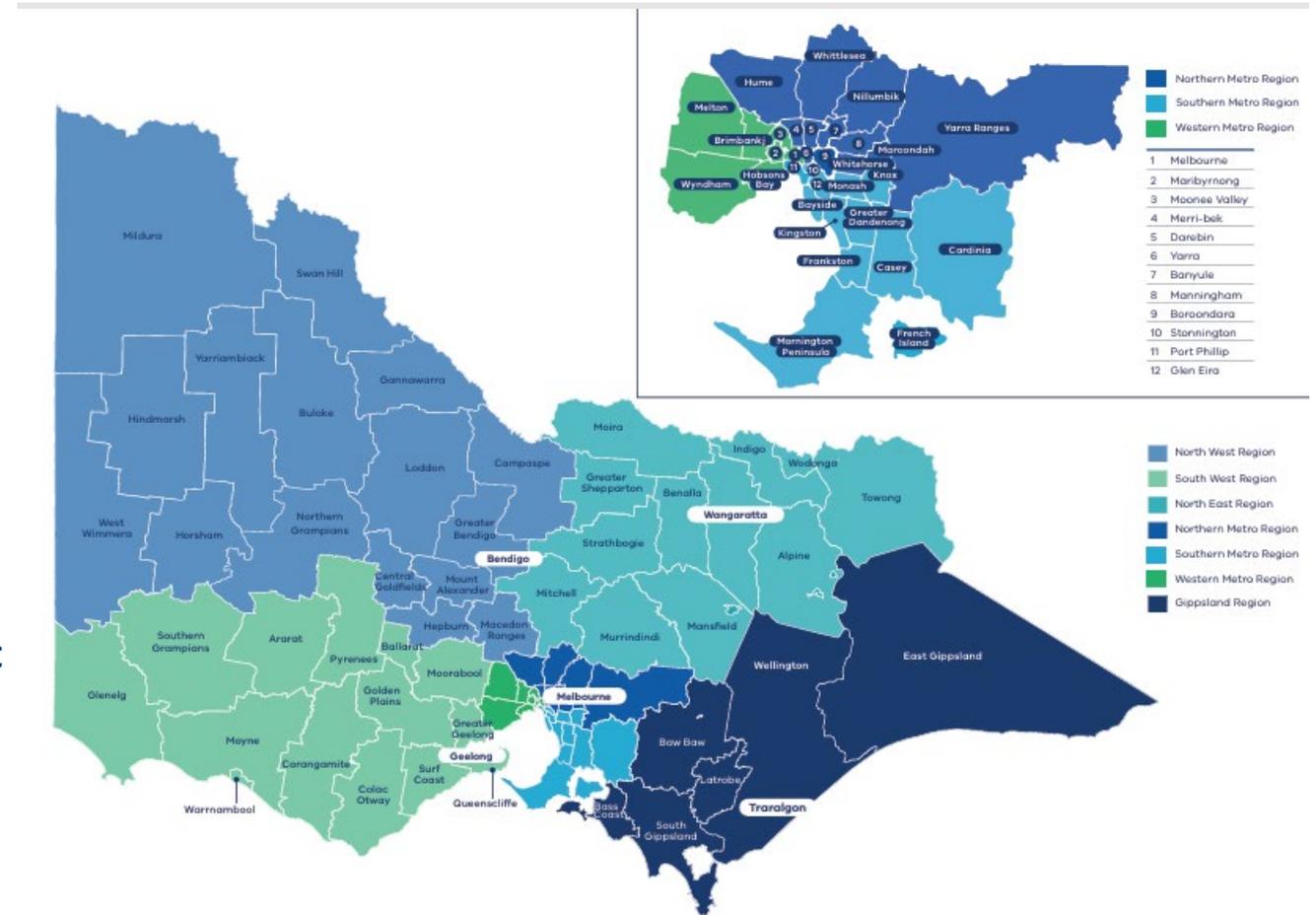
Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Victoria

- EPA is Victoria's independent environmental regulator.
- **Over governing legislation:**
 - *Environment Protection Act 2017;*
 - *Environment Protection Regulations (2021); and*
 - *Pollution of Waters by Oil and Noxious Substances Act 1986*
- **Our objective:** protect human health and the environment by reducing the harmful effects of pollution and waste.
- **Our regulatory approach:** a mix of encouragement and deterrence and aims to motivate action and improve outcomes for the community and the environment.



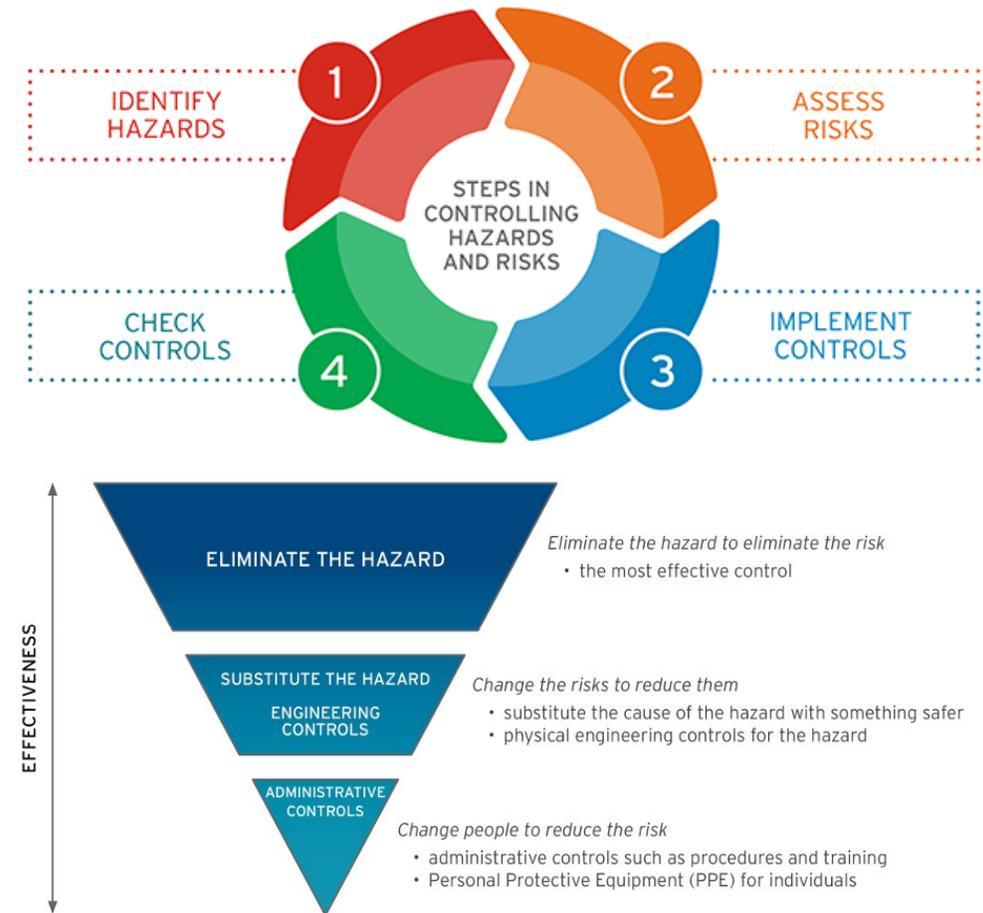
Jurisdiction and regulatory areas

- **Our statutory remit:** protection of human health and the environment from pollution and waste across Victoria and its coastal waters (up to 3 nautical miles)
- **Our operational regions:** three metropolitan and four regional, including offices in Geelong and Traralgon
- **Our legislative construct:** a mix of outcomes-based duties to manage risks of harm and waste and an approvals framework for specific activities



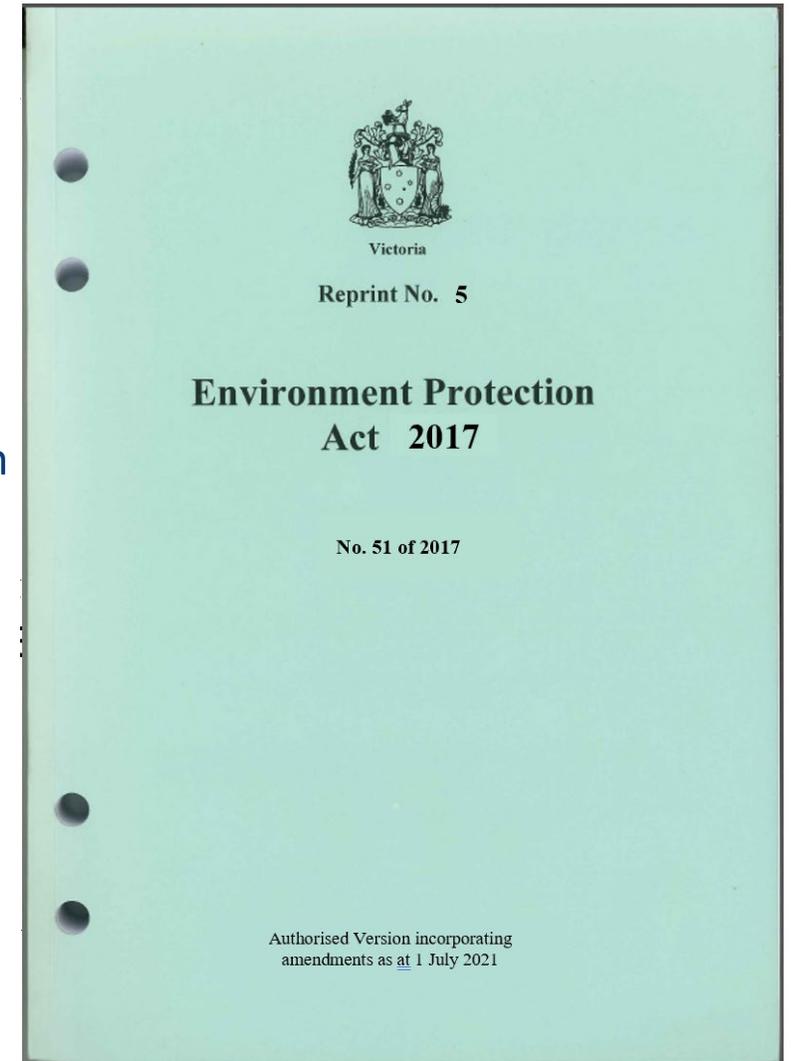
Potential regulatory role for EPA

- Ensuring risks of harm arising from **transfer of dismantled structures onshore**, including nearshore pollution risks (general environmental duty) are identified, assessed, controlled and monitored appropriately. This includes consideration of the hierarchy of controls, industry state of knowledge and what is reasonably practicable
- **Permissions approval** for activities conducted onshore at the transfer terminal (permissions framework)
- Advisory role in a **statutory planning referral** (planning permit), provided trigger criteria are met



Potential regulatory role for EPA (cont.)

- Support role under Victoria's **Emergency Management Framework** in the event of an emergency incident
- **Pollution response** by Authorised Officers & ORCA (Oil Response Company of Australia) under EPA contract
- **Waste management** under the Environment Protection Act: application of the waste management hierarchy; presumption of recovery and recycling; safe transfer and disposal of non-recoverable waste (waste management duties)



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