

## **Fonterra Australia Pty Ltd**

colleen.gates@fonterra.com

### **What do you think are the key environmental challenges which will impact the EPA in the future?**

- Waste disposal (solid and liquid) - accommodating technology, future disposal needs. EPA regulations place pressure on business to identify appropriate disposal options.
- Residential encroachment on commercial, industrial and agricultural practices and industry.
- climate change eg. 30A discharge cannot necessarily be defined by a 90% wet year with changing weather patterns and storm surge events.

### **What aspects of the EPA's work do you value and wish to preserve in the future?**

No Answer

### **How can the EPA effectively work in partnership with other government agencies to meet the environmental challenges of the future?**

Clearly defined roles and responsibilities between DELWP, EPA and local govt would be helpful. Lack of ownership around water courses and water discharges is an example of an area where clarity of roles/responsibilities is required. EPA appear to be well invested in managing licensed premises however their visibility in managing emissions and environmental impacts from other commercial sectors is not clear. Interaction with local govt and DELWP (as two examples) could further open up opportunities for industry to get involved in broader environmental initiatives such as waste, water and/or land resource programs. Participation in industry schemes could be considered as part of an accredited licence or earned autonomy program.

### **How can the EPA's role in safeguarding the community against the health impacts of pollution be clarified or strengthened?**

More investment and/or support for community monitoring in high risk areas whether it be for water quality, air quality etc.

### **How could statutory frameworks more effectively prevent future environmental risks and land use conflicts?**

Integration of environment, safety and planning based regulatory frameworks. For example, there is a current disconnect between buffer distances quoted in the state planning scheme for dairy manufacturing sites versus buffer distances quoted in EPA Publication 1518 Separation Distances for Industrial Air. When you consider the petrochemical industry there is also a

disconnect with inner/outer safety zones quoted by Worksafe, versus planning and environmental buffers. Integration of these regulatory frameworks and providing consistency will help to address land use interface issues and residential encroachment. EPA participation at VCAT hearings and planning panels appears case dependent and should be given greater resourcing with clarity on EPA position on each VCAT issue.

**What role should the EPA play in emergency management?**

No Answer

**How can the EPA better identify and, where necessary, address problems that are the result of past activity?**

The Priority Sites Register identifies potentially contaminated land that has been issued a notice. A broader consolidated contaminated sites register for 53x or 53V audited sites and land containing groundwater contam that is not necessarily identified by a GQRUZ would also be helpful.

**What role should the EPA play in improving environmental outcomes beyond those necessary to safeguard human health?**

A review of the SEPPs to consider current environmental quality of the urban and rural environment in Victoria would be a good starting point.

**What role should the EPA play in reducing greenhouse gas emissions?**

No Answer

**How do you see environmental justice being applied to the work of the EPA?**

No Answer

**What can we adopt from other regulators and regulatory models to implement best-practice approaches and ensure that the EPA can rise to key future challenges?**

No Answer

**Are there any other issues relevant to the Terms of Reference that you would like to raise?**

No Answer

**What can the EPA do to avoid potential future problems?**

Adequate resourcing within the organisation - this includes regional staffing for the whole of Victoria, technical experts and consistent interpretation of their own regulatory framework.