



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **the Premier and Cabinet**



Hon. Stephen Dawson MLC
Minister for Environment

MEDIA STATEMENT

Monday, 28 October 2019

Feedback sought on improving environmental legislation

The McGowan Government has released a discussion paper outlining its plans to modernise environmental protection legislation and is seeking community and industry feedback on the proposed amendments.

The discussion paper *Modernising the Environmental Protection Act* presents the background to the proposed reforms and is accompanied by the release of an Exposure Draft Bill.

Updating the State's environmental legislation supports the directions in the Government's 2017 Service Priority Review and the Streamline WA initiative.

Amendments are aimed at promoting sustainable development and improving the capacity to protect the environment.

Some of the key changes proposed include:

- Reforming clearing provisions to deliver efficient, targeted, flexible and transparent outcomes;
- Improving efficiency by accreditation of environmental practitioners to certify documents prior to their submission;
- Enabling cost recovery of environmental impact assessment and services provided by the State on behalf of the Commonwealth Government through bilateral agreements.

Proposed amendments have been informed by a number of reviews since 2006 and feedback from stakeholders.

Feedback during consultation will be used to finalise a Bill for consideration by Parliament.

A copy of the *Modernising the Environmental Protection Act* discussion paper and Exposure Draft Bill are available from www.dwer.wa.gov.au

Comments attributed to Environment Minister Stephen Dawson:

"Amending the Environmental Protection Act will enable us to address future challenges so we can continue to meet the expectations of community and industry in protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development.

“Transparency will be increased and processes for environmental impact assessment, clearing permits, works approvals and licences will be improved.

“I encourage all interested community and industry stakeholders to take the time to consider the issues in the paper and provide feedback. Your opinions are valued.”

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