



Environment Institute of
Australia and New Zealand Inc.

ABSTRACT SPECIFICATIONS

Title: Supporting efficient policy implementation – moving forward on environmental regulatory reform

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Abstract:

The Department of the Environment has recently merged several key functions forming the Environment Standards Division. Among the many roles this Division plays, will be a continuation of focus on a core element of the Government's Plan for a Cleaner Environment: managing the regulatory reform process to deliver the One-Stop-Shop for environmental assessments and approvals.

In order to maintain ongoing business, pursue regulatory reform and adopt more strategic approaches to environmental assessment, we have and will continue to make complex policy decisions to fulfill the Division's role. By maintaining momentum of these reforms, there has been an ever increasing need to implement policies quickly, even rapidly, on occasion. The effort required with putting such policies into effect, however, can be underestimated and under-resourced if not carefully managed. We have identified policy implementation as a key support function to ensure fit for purpose policy is developed and delivered seamlessly. Rather than this function being delivered arbitrarily across many teams, as has been previous practice, a dedicated team has been established that will inform strategic policy development of implementation matters as well as operationalise strategic policy to ensure the policy intent is translated into regulatory practice.

This paper will provide an insight to our approach we have taken to implement these often complex and interlinking policies to support the One Stop Shop reforms. We will also discuss the progress made to reform the current environmental assessment process, through extensive consultation with the people that use it – our staff, proponents and consultants. By providing a detailed overview of current examples, such as the outcomes based conditions policy and the review of the Department's environmental assessment processes, we will demonstrate how we have approached policy implementation holistically, and how we have adapted principles of evidenced-based policy development and project management to achieve our objectives.