

# EPA Victoria

**Akzo Nobel Pty Limited Community Forum**

**15 July 2021**

**Steve Lansdell – Regional Manager Western Metropolitan Region**

**Sam Sparks – Senior Environment Protection Officer**

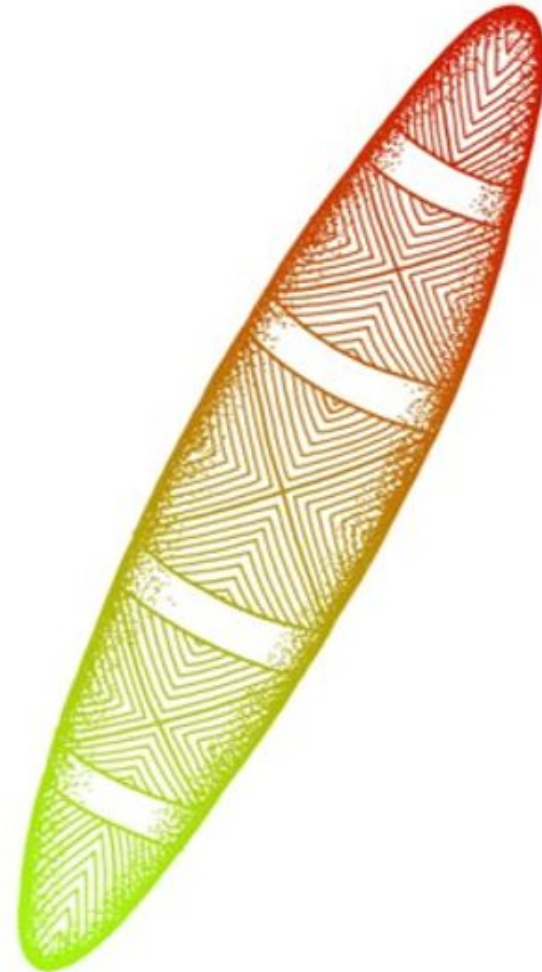
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## Welcome

EPA's aboriginal inclusion symbol,  
the Gayaam Wilam "shield", signifying  
protection.

*The image was commissioned by EPA in 2017  
from Wurundjeri artist, Mandy Nicholson*





## Who are we?

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) is Victoria's environmental regulator.

## What do we do?

We work with community, industry and business to prevent and reduce the harmful effects of pollution and waste on Victoria's environment and people.

## Why do we do this?

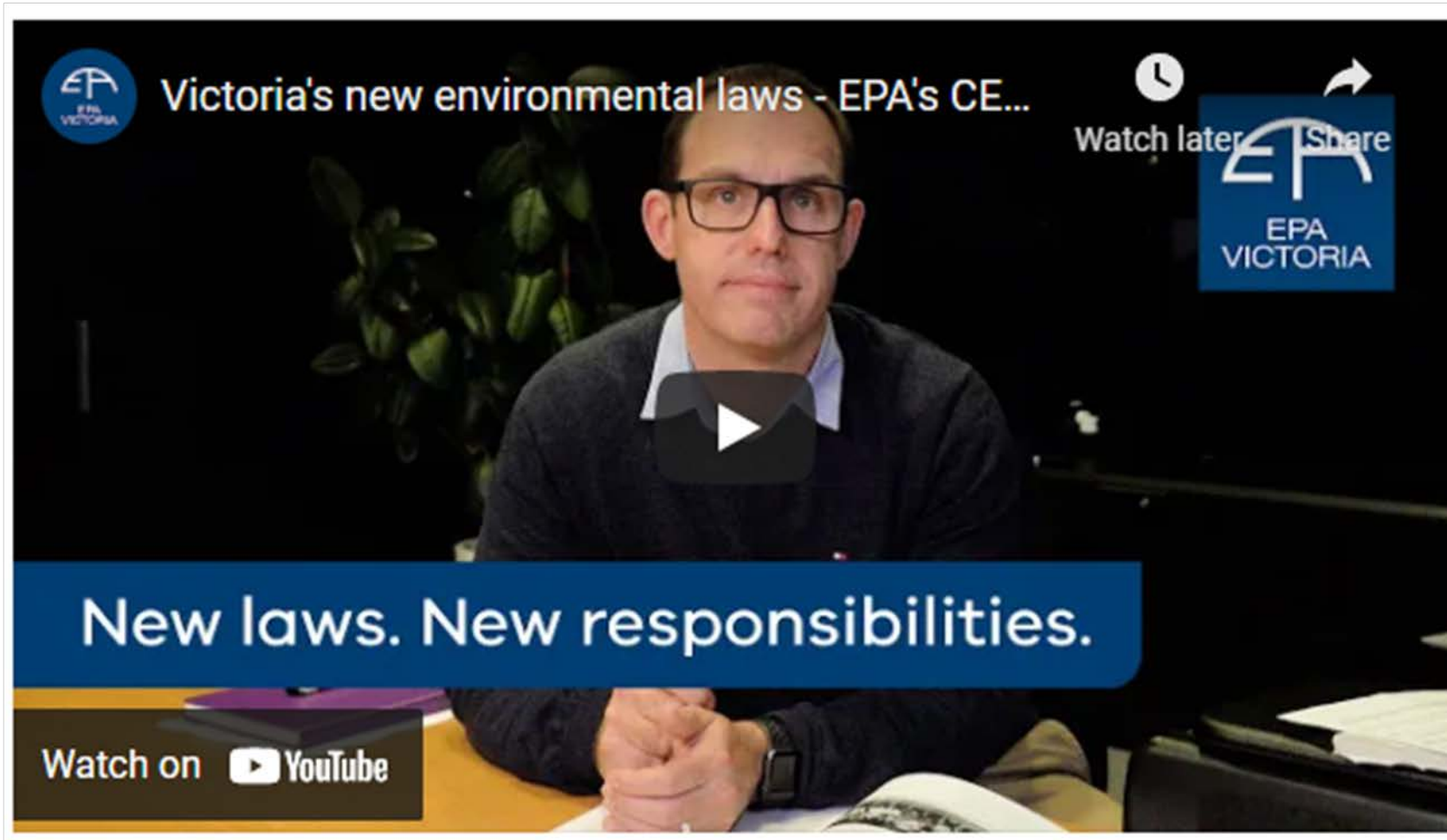
Everyone has a role in preventing harm to Victoria's environment. Small acts that harm our environment add up and can have a big impact. Like you, we want Victoria's environment to be a liveable, healthy place.

## How are you impacted?

From 1 July 2021, new laws will require everyone to take reasonable steps to identify and manage their risks to the environment. Contact EPA to help you understand your obligations under the law and receive guidance on how to meet your environmental duties.

# New laws. New Responsibilities.

EPA's CEO explains



[www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)

General Environmental Duty

- Prevention-based

Key concepts

- State of Knowledge
- As far as reasonably practicable

# Compliance Update



- Noise:
  - EPA's expectations are now increased.
  - Compliance advice given to form basis of new remedial notices if needed.
  - Currently investigating a sanction for non-compliance with original notice.



# Compliance Update

- Odour
  - New Act requires broader management of VOC's and odour.
  - New notice issued guided by intent of New Act.
  - New odour characteristics in the area and EPA Actions

## 4

## AN EXAMPLE OF HOW YOU CAN COMPLY

One way of achieving compliance with this notice would be to:

4.1 By the due date, supply to EPA a risk-based monitoring program that enables you and EPA to determine if odours offensive to the senses of human beings are not discharged, emitted or released beyond the boundaries of the premises." This plan could:

- Outline a risk-based plan for managing point source odours at the premises by:
  - listing all potential point sources of odour at the premises.
  - conducting a risk-based assessment of the potential of those point sources of odour to be discharged, emitted or released beyond the boundary of the premises.
  - developing and implementing appropriate controls to manage the risk of point sources of odour to be discharged, emitted or released beyond the boundary of the premises.
  - developing and implementing a system for evaluating the effectiveness of the controls outlined in 4.1(a)(iii), including triggers for defined levels of further investigation.
  - developing and implementing a stack testing program, informed by the risk assessment conducted in 4.1(a)(ii), to measure the odour units and associated odour characteristics being discharged from point sources at the premises.
  - developing and implementing a process for assessing the results gathered under the stack testing program, including through the use of triggers for defined levels of further investigation.
- Outline a risk-based plan for managing fugitive emissions at the premises by:
  - listing potential fugitive emissions sources of odour at the premises
  - conducting a risk-based assessment of the potential of those fugitive sources of odour to be discharged, emitted or released beyond the boundary of the premises.
  - developing and implementing a process for identifying and assessing fugitive sources of odour at the premises, including through the use of community reports of offensive odours beyond the boundary of the premises.
  - developing and implementing a process for responding to reports of fugitive emissions coming from the premises, including through the use of triggers for defined levels of further investigation.

4.2 By the due date, supply to EPA a risk-based monitoring program that enables you and EPA to determine if you are compliant with the Discharge to Air table outlined in EPA licence 9269. This plan could:

- Outline all operational stacks at the premises, or other sources of relevant compounds being discharged to air.
- Conduct a risk-based assessment of the potential of those operational stacks or other sources of relevant compounds being discharged to air.
- developing and implementing a stack testing program, informed by the risk assessment conducted in 4.2(b), to assess compliance against the Discharge to Air table outlined in EPA licence 9269.
- developing and implementing a process for assessing the results gathered under the stack testing program, including through the use of triggers for defined levels of further investigation.
- develop and implement a system for evaluating the effectiveness of any controls used to control the discharges relevant to the Discharge to Air table outlined in EPA licence 9269.

# Compliance Timeline

- 2 July 2021 – Compliance Update for installation of odour control
- 30 July 2021 – New odour and VOC monitoring program.
- 21 October 2021 – Odour control installation.
- 28 October 2021 – Engage a NATA accredited consultant to test control
- 18 November 2021 – Supply to EPA sample results from accredited consultant.
- 25 November 2021 – Supply to EPA final compliance report.

# Environmental Public Health

- Odour

- Health-based criteria values are guidance levels set by expert groups. Combined with estimates of exposure, they can be used by assessors to determine the risk to human health, and to consider whether further investigation, assessment, and/or remediation is required.
- Odours for VOCs can be detected by the human nose at much lower levels than values relevant to health-based criteria values.
- Three main odour causing VOCs that have been identified and investigated were: toluene, xylenes & ethylbenzene.
- Measured VOC results at site boundaries did not exceed health-based criteria for air quality. Indicating that VOC levels present are not expected to have long-term health affects.
- Short exposures to odours detected by the human nose below VOC health criteria are not expected to have long-term health affects, but can in some cases lead to symptoms, e.g. headaches, nausea and vomiting.
- There is a remedial notice currently in place focused on elimination of odour sources. It is expected with the reduction of odour impacts will be accompanied by dissipation of symptoms.



# Environmental Public Health

- Noise
  - Even at lower levels, noise can cause adverse effects because it is annoying or a nuisance and can awaken a psychological disturbance impacting health & wellbeing.
  - Noise impact assessment is related to background noise level, source noise level, frequency and duration.
  - We are aware that this facility is a 24hr operation and have investigated noise impacts relative to the operations at the facility
  - Noise monitoring has been undertaken and compliance with noise standards investigated as discussed previously, our Applied Sciences division has been working with our regional staff to guide remedial notices.

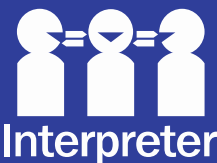
# How to keep up to date

- Akzo Nobel has committed to keeping the community updated. This is also formalised in remedial notices.
- EPA will be providing regular updates via social media, email, website, and community information sessions
- We've set up a webpage addressing the issue, see here:
- <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/for-community/current-projects-issues/active-environmental-issues/western-metro/odour-issues-in-sunshine-north>
- (or [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au) and search for 'Akzo Nobel' in the top right corner of the page)
- Report pollution to our hotline 1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC) or email us at [contact@epa.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@epa.vic.gov.au)
- Thank you again – your pollution reports allow us to respond to you faster



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1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC)  
[epa.vic.gov.au](http://epa.vic.gov.au)



For languages other than English please call 131 450. Visit [epa.vic.gov.au/language-help](http://epa.vic.gov.au/language-help) for next steps.  
If you need assistance because of a hearing or speech impairment, please visit [relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)

This publication is for general guidance only. You should obtain professional advice if you have any specific concern. EPA Victoria has made every reasonable effort to ensure accuracy at the time of publication.