

# Statutory Policy Review

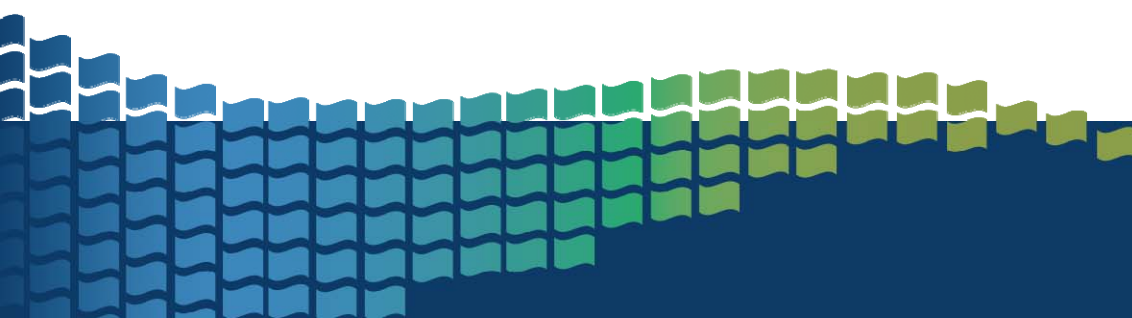
Business and industry workshop

22 July 2011



# What I'll cover:

- What is statutory policy?
- **Objective, scope** and **timeframe** of Review
- How statutory policies developed – **the past**
- Why review the framework – **the present and future**



# Statutory policies are law!

- *State Environment Protection Policies (SEPPs)*  
and
- *Waste Management Policies (WMPs)*  
under EP Act



# Statutory Policy Review:

**Objective:** Ensure statutory policy provides an effective *framework* to protect the environment in the future

## Scope:

- Role, function, structure and management
- Not reviewing individual policies
- Not reviewing entire EP Act
- May make recommendations for legislative changes

# Statutory Policy Review - timeline



# When SEPPs first emerged...

- High levels of gross pollution
- Lack of national processes
- Lack of co-ordination
- ***Technology*** based rather than ***environmental quality*** based standards



# Environmental quality standards

- What we **value** in the environment
- What **level of protection** it needs
- How we **monitor** whether objectives are met

SEPP WoV:

Ben use: Water for recreational use

Objectives: ref national guidelines

Indicators: pH, turbidity



## Strategic direction

-purpose, principles and intent

## Environmental quality standards

- beneficial uses, environmental quality objectives, indicators

## Attainment program

- Obligations on emitters (industry)  
- Responsibilities of EPA & other bodies

**WHAT we  
want to  
protect**

**HOW we're  
going to protect  
it**

# Obligations on emitters (industry)

- Concepts of **best practice**
- **continuous improvement**
- managing emissions to **maximum extent achievable**

SEPP AQM: 'Generator of emissions must apply best practice to manage emissions'



# Obligations on emitters (industry)

- More specific
- eg. minimum standards, modelling

SEPP AQM: 'Must do modelling in accordance with Schedule C'

Landfill WMP: 'Must use weighbridge to measure waste'



# Responsibilities of EPA and other bodies

- Specific and broad

SEPP WoV: 'Water authorities have various responsibilities to provide water services in ecologically sustainable manner'

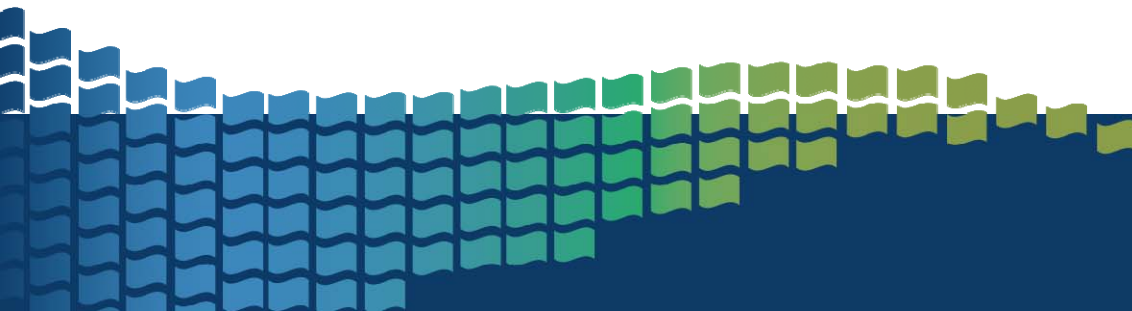
SEPP contaminated land: 'Planning authorities must consider any significant effects that use may have on environment'





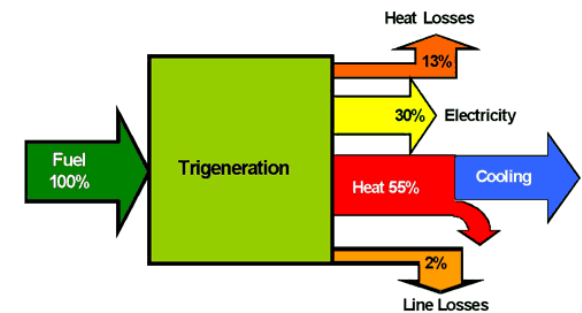
# Policies evolve over time.....

- More innovative approaches
- Tackling diffuse pollution
- NEPMs in state law
- Specific issues of the day
- Now 15 individual policies



# What's changed in 30+ years.....

- Less gross pollution events
- Changing physical environment
- Acceleration in technologies
- Need for more integrated approaches
- Stronger national processes
- Increased scrutiny on regulation



# Further drivers to review statutory policy

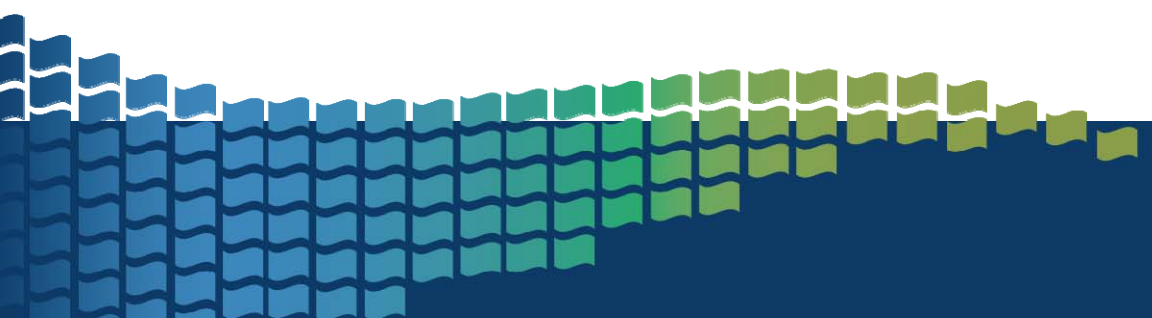
- Clearer, more accessible standards
- Improve links to other legislation
- Improve accountability
- Better measure value of policy



# Group work #1

1. What's **useful** or **works well** about statutory policy, and will continue to work well in the future?
2. What's **not working** and won't work in the future?
3. Prioritise the top three issues

# Potential improvements to the statutory policy framework



## Group work #2

1. What **changes**, if any, are needed for statutory policy to **address the priority issue**?
2. What are the **implications** of such a change?
3. Prioritise the top three issues

# Written submissions welcome

- Due by **Friday 19 August**
- Discussion paper and submit comments at:

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

Thank you!

