



Office of  
Environment  
& Heritage

# CHANGES TO NSW ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES





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# ORICA INCIDENT

8 August 2011 – Kooragang Island



# Protection of the Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2011

## Major Components

- Modernising the EPA
- Notification of Pollution Incidents
- Pollution Incident Management Response Plans
- Community Access to Information
- Other new or expanded powers



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We are developing a modern, independent NSW EPA making sure that public health and safety is a focus while we protect the broader environment.



# Notification of Pollution Incidents

- Industry required to *immediately* notify pollution incidents



## **DIRECT NOTIFICATION TO RESPONSE AGENCIES**

- **EPA, Health, Workcover, Fire and Rescue, local Council**
- **Benefit – improved information transfer**
  - **Allows for timely decisions and actions**
  - **Information from source**
  - **Direct polluter**
  - **Accountability**

# Pollution Incident Management Plans

- Industry required to prepare and implement pollution incident response plans



# Community Access to Information

- EPA Public Register and Industry Monitoring Data



# Other Changes

- Expanded power to conduct mandatory environmental audits
- Recovery of reasonable costs for expert advice and assessment
- Direct polluter to notify others

