

Environmentally relevant activities (ERAs)

Training program

Purpose

This training program is designed for the operators and staff of all businesses whose environmentally relevant activities (ERAs) are monitored by Queensland's Councils.

For more information, contact your local Council

This program aims to

- Provide workers with information on environmentally healthy practices in the workplace.
- Assist businesses to meet the conditions of their development approval and environmental authority.
- Promote awareness of environmental principles and values.

For more information, contact your local Council

Program outline

- General matters.
- Waste management.
- Water contamination.
- Storage of potential contaminants.
- Spill clean up.
- Nuisances - noise, air, odour, light, visual amenity.
- Conclusion.

For more information, contact your local Council

General environmental duty

“ A person must not carry out any activity that causes, or is likely to cause environmental harm unless the person takes all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent or minimise the harm.”

(Section 319 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*)

All Queenslanders need to comply with the general environmental duty.

For more information, contact your local Council

A Prescribed ERA is an activity in which...

- A contaminant will or may be released into the environment when the activity is carried out and the release of the contaminant will or may cause environmental harm.

For more information, contact your local Council

Businesses whose ERAs are monitored by Councils

- Asphalt manufacturing (more than 1000 tonnes of asphalt per year)
- Boat maintenance or repair
- Plastic manufacturing (5 tonnes or more of foam, composite plastics or rigid fibre-reinforced plastics)
- Metal forming (Hot forming a total of 10 000 tonnes or more of metal in a year)
- Metal recovery (less than 100 tonnes of metal in a day or 10 000 tonnes or more of metal in a year, without using a fragmentiser)
- Surface coating (anodising, electroplating, enamelling or galvanising using 1 tonne to 100 tonnes of materials in a year)
- Waste incineration and thermal treatment

For more information, contact your local Council

Queensland legislation

- *Environmental Protection Act 1994* (current at 1 July 2014)
- *Environmental Protection Regulation 1998*
- *Environmental Protection (Air) Policy 1997*
- *Environmental Protection (Noise) Policy 1997*
- *Environmental Protection (Water) Policy 1997*
- *Sustainable Planning Act 2009*
- *Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2011*

All found at: www.legislation.qld.gov.au

For more information, contact your local Council

ERA approvals

- You need to comply with the conditions of your development approval and environmental authority.
- These documents have operational and structural conditions related to your business.
- All staff should have access to the development approval and environmental authority so they are aware of the environmental conditions for the business.
- If you don't comply with your conditions, Council may take enforcement action.

For more information, contact your local Council

Complaints register

Businesses need to maintain a complaints register. The register should include:

- time, date and nature of complaint
- how the complaint was made
- details of the complainant
- investigation into the complaint and action taken
- details of the person who investigated the complaint
- response to complainant, if needed

For more information, contact your local Council

Incidents register

An environmental incident includes an environment nuisance (e.g. noise) or an incident that causes or could potentially cause environmental harm (e.g. release of chemicals). You need to record environmental incidents in a register and include:

- time, date and details of the incident
- how the incident occurred
- action taken to remedy the incident
- investigation into the incident
- recommendations from investigation

For more information, contact your local Council

Waste management

- Transport of waste and disposal to landfill can have environmental impacts such as potential leachate, odour and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Waste management procedures should follow the waste management hierarchy in the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*.
- You will also need to refer to your development approval and environmental authority for specific requirements that relate to your business.

For more information, contact your local Council

Waste management hierarchy

This is the preferred order of waste management practices to achieve the best environmental outcome:

- Avoid producing any waste
- Reduce the generation of waste
- Reuse as much as possible
- Recycle as much as possible
- Recover and use energy generated from waste
- Disposal of waste.

For more information, contact your local Council

Regulated Waste

- Regulated waste must be disposed of by an approved regulated waste contractor.
- Regulated waste are listed in schedule 7 of the *Environmental Protection Regulation 2008*.
- Examples of regulated waste include, but are not limited to:
 - Waste oil and oil filters.
 - Oily rags.
 - Solvent.
 - Containers and rags contaminated with chemicals such as oil and paint.
 - Fuel.
 - Tyres.
 - Sludge from a wet scrubber.
 - Acid solutions.
 - Inks and resins.

For more information, contact your local Council

Storage of waste

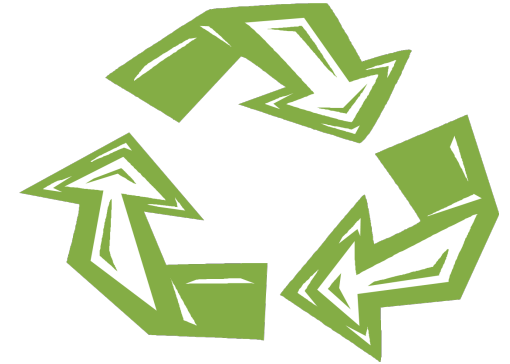
- Store your waste in a undercover area and keep it clean.
- Label you waste containers and position them in accessible areas.
- Your development approval and environmental authority may have specific requirements relating to waste storage.

For more information, contact your local Council

Recycling

These products can be recycled:

- clean cardboard
- aluminium cans and drink bottles
- plastics
- steel products (drums, drained steel cans)
- rags
- wastewater from worksite.



For more information, contact your local Council

Wastewater

Wastewater can contaminate waterways if it is released to the stormwater system. Wastewater should be:

- Treated and reused on site, where possible.
- Released to the sewer system, if you have a trade waste permit.
- Removed by a licensed waste transporter, if you don't have a trade waste permit.

For more information, contact your local Council

Water contamination

Contaminants that enter stormwater drains and waterways harm plants, animals and the aquatic ecosystem. They can also impact on drinking water supply and farm supply.

For more information, contact your local Council



Water pollution in a creek



Water pollution in a creek

Contaminants

The following substances must never be released into a stormwater drain or waterway:

- Regulated waste.
- Scrap metal and metal particles.
- Building waste.
- Sawdust.
- Cement or concrete.
- Insecticide, herbicide, fungicide or other biocide.
- Anything that has a pH less than 6 or greater than 9.
- All run-off from work areas.

For more information, contact your local Council

Storage of contaminants

- Liquid contaminants need to be stored in a covered and bunded area to contain any spills.
- The bund should be constructed with a material which is impervious to the contaminants stored inside.
- Your development approval and environmental authority may have specific requirements relating to contaminant storage.

For more information, contact your local Council

Bunding

Bunding is the construction of a barrier around a stored substance for the purpose of containing a possible spill.

Bunding for waste oil storage,
with rain protection



For more information, contact your local Council

Bunding

Example of bunding used on a workshop floor.

Bunding for a workshop floor



For more information, contact your local Council

Storage of dangerous goods

- The storage of dangerous goods is regulated by the Queensland *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.
- **dangerous goods** means—
 - (a) asbestos
 - (b) anything defined under the ADG Code as—
 - (i) dangerous goods; or
 - (ii) goods too dangerous to be transported.
- Examples include, but are not limited to, combustibles such as fuels, flammable products such as aerosols and corrosive products for example, cleaning items.

For more information, contact your local Council

Spill clean-up

- Spill clean-up equipment must be provided for all types of contaminants. The equipment needs to be clearly marked and easily accessible.
- Follow business procedures for containment and disposal of spilt contaminants.
- Record the spill in the incident register.
- Your development approval and environmental authority may have specific requirements relating to spill clean up.

For more information, contact your local Council

Spill clean-up

Spill clean-up kit →



For more information, contact your local Council

Nuisance issues

The following emissions have potential to cause nuisance to your neighbours:

- noise
- dust and particulate matter
- odours
- light



For more information, contact your local Council

Noise

You need to ensure that noise is not causing a nuisance to your neighbours.

Noisy equipment and processes (e.g. compressors, power and air tools) should be operated in an enclosed space.

Your development approval and environmental authority may have conditions relating to noise.



For more information, contact your local Council

Air and odour

Dust, particulate matter and odours can cause a nuisance to neighbours and contribute to air pollution.

Your approval conditions may include:

- Limits on emissions of air pollutants.
- Requirements to monitor emissions or ambient air quality.
- Other specific requirements relating to dust, particulate matter and odour.



For more information, contact your local Council

Lighting

Your lighting should be positioned and installed so that it doesn't cause a nuisance to your neighbours.



For more information, contact your local Council

Outline of material covered

- General matters.
- Waste management.
- Water contamination.
- Storage of potential contaminants.
- Spill clean up.
- Nuisances (noise, air, odour, light).

For more information, contact your local Council

Conclusion

- All Queenslanders need to ensure their activities don't harm the environment.
- The development approval and environmental authority list the structural and operational conditions you need to comply with.

For more information, contact your local Council