

**Portfolio/s:** Environment & Heritage

**ISSUE:** **\*\*NEW\*\*** **RESPONSE TO COVID-19 – ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

## Talking points:

- The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) are continuing to be guided by the latest advice from ACT and Commonwealth Health authorities and are considering the impact of that advice in the delivery of their regulatory compliance functions.
- The EPA are continuing to prioritise and respond to all critical environmental incidents and emergencies based on risk.
- EPA officers are responding to complaints on an as needed basis, in line with its Regulatory Compliance Framework while ensuring that COVID-19 health requirements are being complied with.
- EPA officers are not entering private residences and are complying with all social distancing requirements. Where able, inspections are being undertaken from the EPA vehicle without entering the site.
- Noise readings are continuing to be undertaken by EPA officers only if the reading is able to be taken in compliance with COVID-19 requirements.
- Environmental Authorisation reviews which require a field inspection are postponed.
- Inspections of Urban Lakes for water quality are still occurring.

## Background Information

- The EPA is working with ACT Policing to ensure a framework is in place around suburban noise complaints noting that people may be breaching the COVID-19 distancing rules.

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