

Assurance Directorate: Our Commitment

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's Assurance Directorate delivers critical regulatory functions to protect Western Australia's environment and water resources for future generations.

[View Annual Assurance Progra..](#)

[Learn About Our Regulatory Appro...](#)

Strategic Context

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (the department's) [Strategic Plan](#), sets out our **Vision** for a low-carbon Western Australia with a healthy environment and secure water resources for future generations.

Our **Mission** is to act to:



Waste

Reduce the harmful impact of waste and create a low waste circular economy



Climate

Reduce emissions, mitigate climate change impacts and build greater environmental and community resilience



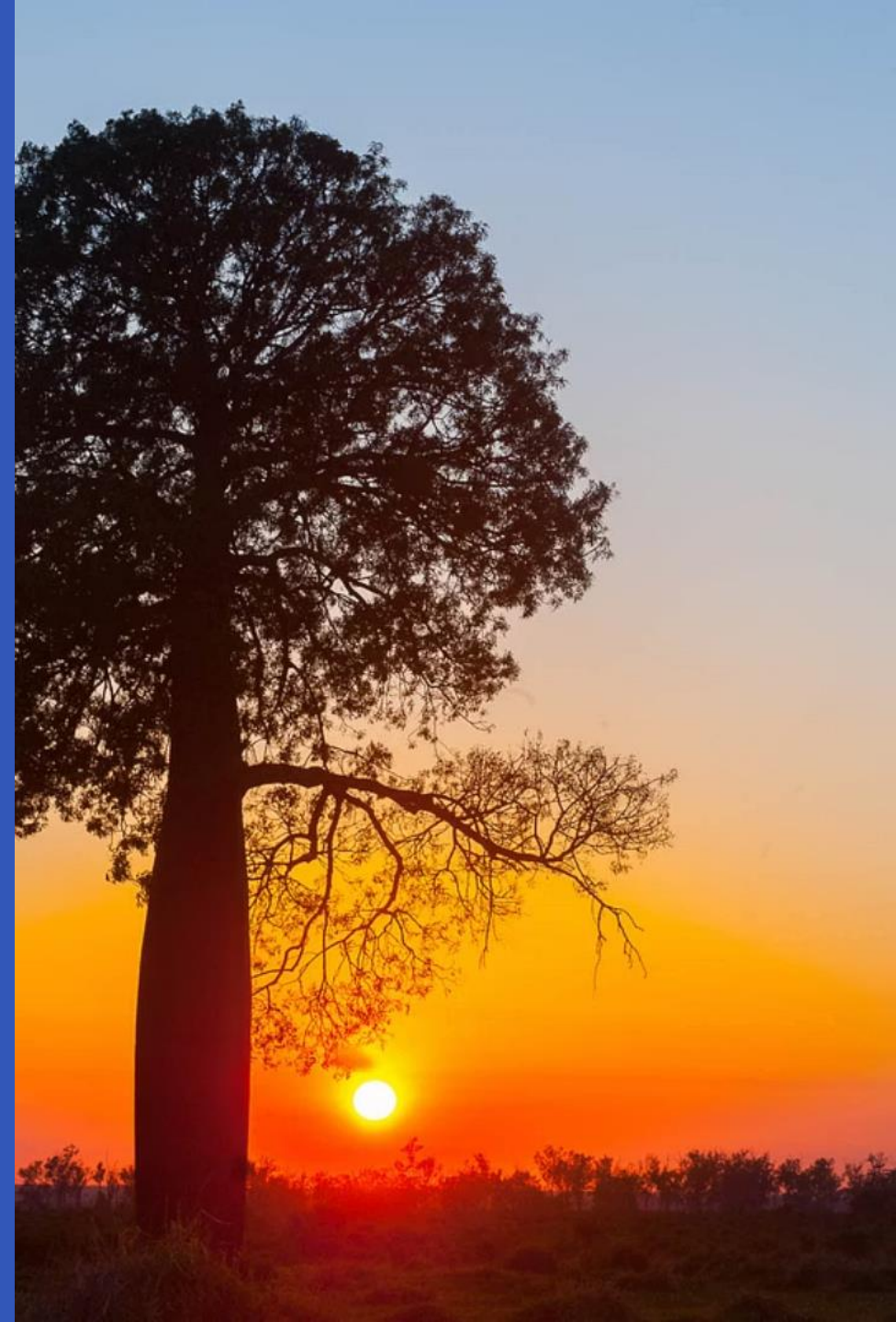
Water

Ensure our water resources meet the needs of the community, ecosystems and economic development



Environment

Make sure that environmental values are protected, and that development is sustainable



Assurance Objectives

Our assurance activities form a critical element of our regulatory cycle, providing stakeholders with confidence that our legislation achieves the intended environmental and water outcomes for Western Australia.

Assurance Activities

The Assurance Directorate supports the department by **promoting, monitoring and enforcing** compliance using available regulatory mechanisms (instruments, policy, and legislation).

Assurance Objectives



Pollution Control

Assess, prevent, control, and abate pollution, unreasonable emissions, and environmental harm.



Environmental Conservation

Conserve, preserve, protect, enhance, and manage the environment.



Water Resource Management

Effectively manage, use, and protect water resources.



Legacy Contamination

Identify, record, manage, and remediate legacy contamination.



Air Quality

Ensure air quality protects human health and well-being.



Waste Management

Avoid or recover waste and minimise its harmful impact.

Closing the regulatory cycle

The Assurance Directorate sits in the Approvals Portfolio and is responsible for the delivery of key regulatory functions, informed by policy and guidance from the Climate & Sustainability Portfolio and facilitated by the Strategy and Engagement Portfolio.

Our Regulatory Approach sets out the department's regulatory responsibilities, how we undertake our regulatory functions and how they all fit together as part of our 'regulatory cycle'.

The following tables outline the Directorate's activities to lead the department in closing the regulatory cycle, anticipating and mitigating risks, utilising best available intelligence and science to make informed decisions, embracing technology to focus our objectives, and implementing best practice assurance principles and processes.



PROMOTE - advise and develop, set the standard, educate



Assessment and Advice

We assess and advise on developments, industrial facilities, expansions, major infrastructure, and planning schemes.



Education

We educate stakeholders on regulatory requirements and standards.



Regulatory and Scientific Advice

We provide regulatory and scientific advice to: Government, statutory boards, and committees (e.g., Environmental Protection Authority, Waste Authority, Contaminated Sites Committee), and State and national working groups (e.g., National Chemicals Working Group, Bauxite Strategic Executive Group, Fuel Standards Consultative Committee, Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators Network).



Support for Approvals

Support internal and external environmental and planning approval processes.



Awareness Campaigns

We raise awareness of regulatory requirements through campaigns, partnering with entities like Crimestoppers and other government departments.



Local Government Support

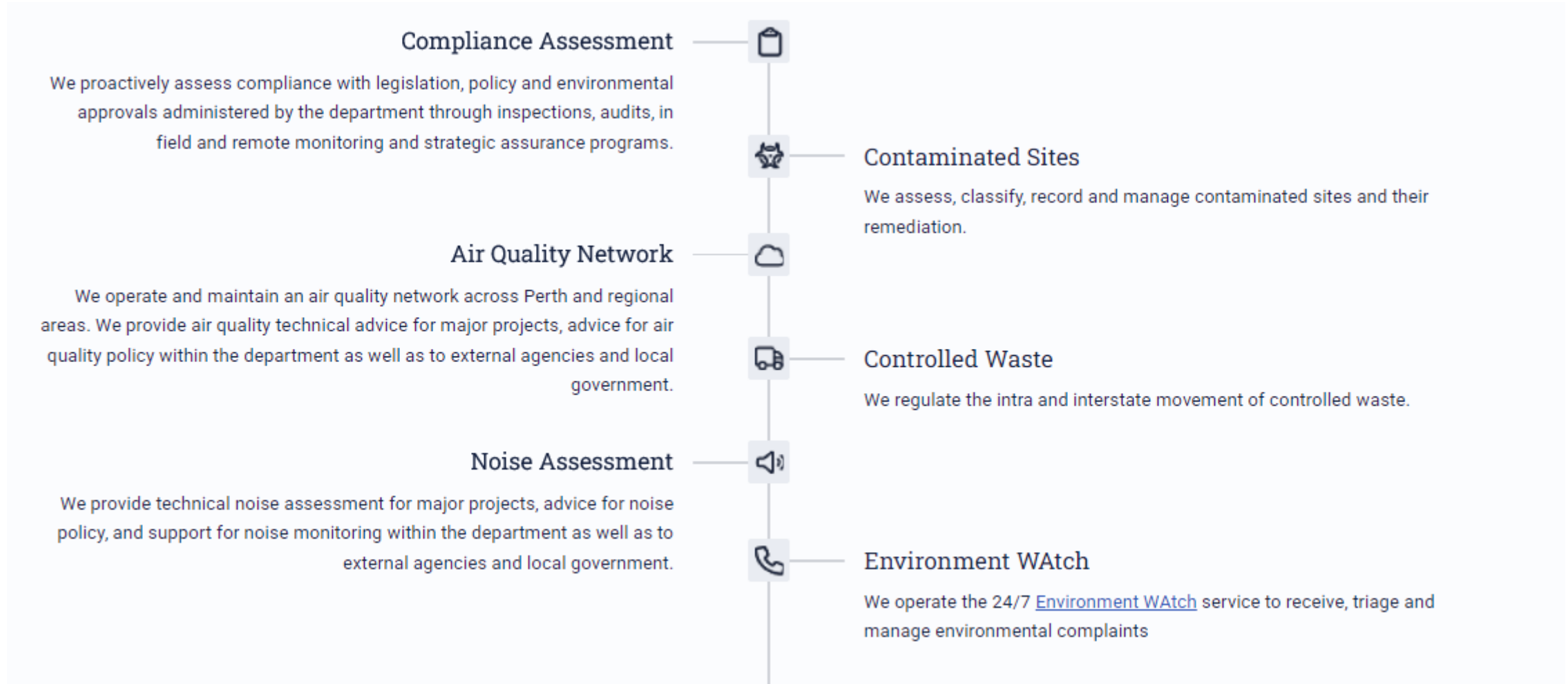
We train and support local government sector in using their powers under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.



Public Information Access

We manage public access to assurance information, including the Environment Watch website, Contaminated Sites Database, Air Quality Index, air quality monitoring reports, and assurance performance reports.

MONITOR - assess, manage



ENFORCE - respond, evaluate

Addressing Non-Compliance

We investigate and act on non-compliances in line with our [Compliance and Enforcement Policy](#).

Emergency Response


We respond to complaints, incidents and emergencies and fulfill the department's responsibilities under the *Emergency Management Act 2005*.

Intelligence Gathering

We gather and evaluate intelligence to identify emerging risks and to inform our assurance priorities and Annual Assurance Program.


Continuous Improvement

We evaluate the findings of our assurance activities and use them to identify opportunities to continuously improve our regulatory instruments, frameworks, processes and to determine whether regulatory intervention is required on specific matters.




Assurance priorities

Annual assurance compliance priorities are set and published in our compliance [Annual Assurance Program](#). Priorities are determined with reference to past assurance findings, current intelligence and Government priorities.



Assurance approach

We undertake our assurance activities in line with the principles of better regulatory practice detailed in our [Regulatory Approach](#). We seek to integrate our assurance activities and collaborate with others to increase our effectiveness and efficiency.



Assurance staff

We lead and undertake our work in line with the [Public Sector Leadership Expectations](#), our departmental [values](#) and in accordance with our [Code of Conduct](#).

We are aware of the expected behaviour as a regulator – we are customer-focussed, supportive, and collaborative.

