

Relevant legislation

Discharges to the environment are regulated under state and local laws, including the **Environmental Protection Act 1986** (EP Act) and the **Environmental Protection (Unauthorised Discharge) Regulations 2004**.

Under the Unauthorised Discharge Regulations, a person who, in the course or connection with a business or a commercial activity, causes or allows material listed in schedule 1 of the regulations to be discharged into the environment commits an offence.

Schedule 1:

- Acid with pH less than 4
- Alkali with pH more than 10
- Animal waste
- Animal oil, fats or grease
- Compounds or solutions of cyanide, mercury, chromium, lead, arsenic
- Degreaser
- Detergent
- Dust produced by a mechanical process including cutting, grinding, sawing, sanding or polishing a material
- Dye
- Engine coolant or engine corrosion inhibitor
- Food waste
- Laundry waste
- Mineral oil
- Organic solvents
- Paint
- Petrol, diesel or hydrocarbon
- Pesticide
- Sediment
- Sewerage
- Vegetable oil, fats or grease

The **environment** includes:

Soil (unsealed ground), surface water, groundwater and air (including all storm water drains and receptacles which are connected to the environment).

Powers of entry

An authorised person or inspector under sections 87 and 88 of the EP Act has powers of entry to gain access to an industrial premises if they have reasonable grounds to believe an offence against the Act has been, is being or is likely to be committed.

More information

For advice on how to prevent discharges to the environment, please contact your local government authority at: www.mycouncil.wa.gov.au.

For further information on the **Light Industry Program** and advice on how to help your business comply with legislation, please the department's website: www.dwer.wa.gov.au.

To report a pollution incident, please contact our 24-hour **Pollution Watch Hotline** on 1300 784 782 or via email at pollutionwatch@dwer.wa.gov.au.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Water and Environmental Regulation**

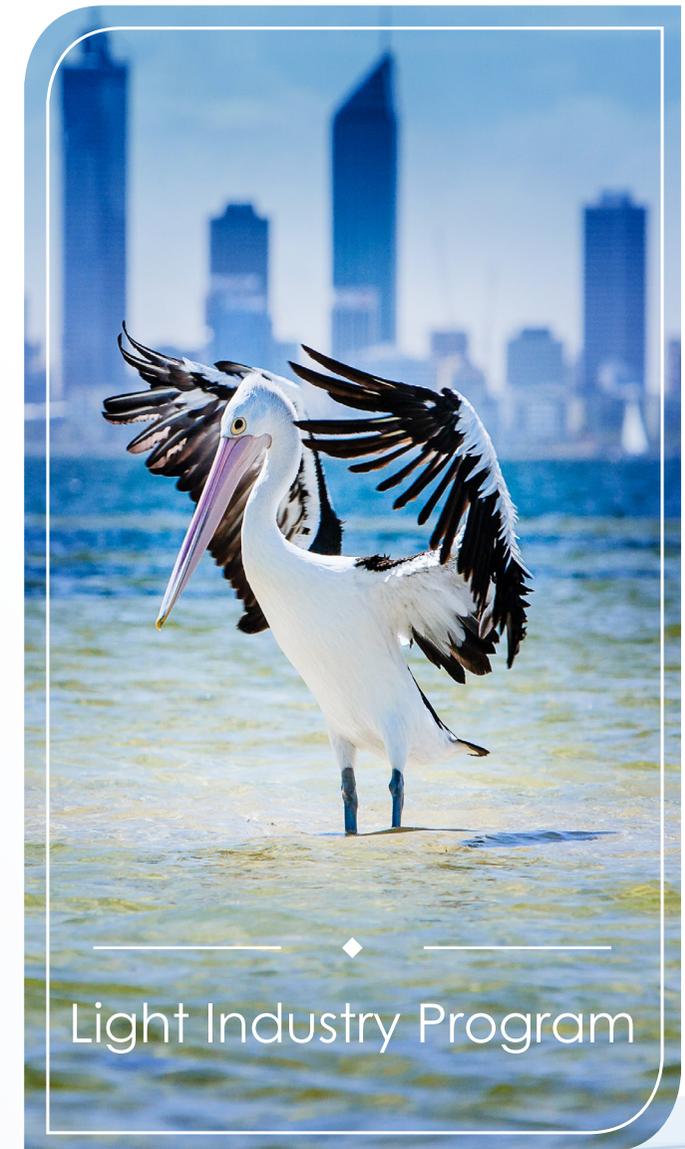


Photo: Matt Kleczkowski

What is the Light Industry Program?

The **Light Industry Program** is a partnership between the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (the department) and local governments, that aims to educate light industry operators on ways to reduce the environmental impact of their business

Why inspect my business?

Light industrial activities have the potential to discharge contaminants into the environment including via soil, storm water drains and soak wells.

This can enable pollutants to enter groundwater, creeks, streams and rivers. Individual discharges can be small, but the cumulative impact from light industry is significant.

Pollutants entering our waterways can impact animals, plants and people and render water unsafe for swimming or drinking. Together, we can protect our valuable waterways and groundwater resources.



What to expect?

Local government and departmental officers are conducting unannounced light industry inspections in your area. The inspections will focus on activities that may impact the environment, with particular emphasis on chemical storage, waste management and preventing unauthorised discharges.



Businesses will be provided with information about environmentally acceptable practices, as well as advice to help avoid breaches of environmental legislation and applicable local laws.

Environmental compliance

Any issues of non-compliance will be discussed along with required actions and recommendations. If issues are identified, a follow up inspection will be organised to confirm actions have been completed.

Inspections typically take less than 30 minutes; however, this depends on the size of the premises and the variety of activities undertaken.

