



28 MAY 2018

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Mr Bryce Wilde
Executive Director
Natural Resources Commission
GPO Box 2341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Wilde

I refer to the Natural Resources Commission's (NRC) evaluation of activities funded through the Environmental Trust's Contaminated Land Management Program between July 2011 and June 2017.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) notes the outcomes of the evaluation and accepts the recommendations.

The evaluation identified a demonstrable need for funding for contaminated land management, but identified the needs for the Environmental Trust to strategically re-evaluate how it should invest in programs to improve contaminated land management.

I am pleased to advise the EPA has been working with the Environmental Trust to improve the delivery and governance of Trust funded Contaminated Land Management programs.

In March 2018, the Environmental Trust agreed to the recommendation to re-focus the scope of its Contaminated Land Management program to cover the delivery of the Council Gasworks, Innocent Owners and Regional Capacity Building programs with grant funding up to \$3 million over the next three-years to be administered by the Trust. In future, emerging contaminated land management issues will need to be identified and addressed through the standard biennial prospectus process managed by the Trust.

In November 2017, the Government announced an allocation of \$23.5 million over four years to better improve Contaminated Land Management. The EPA is using the Natural Resources Commission's recommendations to help design better delivery models and governance frameworks for contaminated land management in NSW. The allocation of this additional funding and the Natural Resource Commission evaluation has also provided an opportunity to re-design the 2018-21 Trust program. The 2018-21 Trust program will focus on two key funding priorities: Council Gasworks and assistance for 'Innocent Owners'. The funding for the further Regional Capacity Building will be separately delivered by the EPA.

In addition, the EPA has commenced development of a detailed program logic and evaluation framework to ensure that future Contaminated Land Management programs are outcomes

focused and their impacts measurable. The finalisation of the program logic and evaluation framework should be completed by the end of July 2018.

The EPA notes that the Natural Resources Commission is required as part of the *Natural Resources Commission Act 2003* to make its reports publicly available. The EPA understands that the Evaluation Report and responses will be placed on your website.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Arminda Ryan, Director Contaminated Land Management, EPA on (02) 9995 5613.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'ANISSA LEVY', with a stylized, cursive flourish extending to the right.

ANISSA LEVY
Acting Chair and CEO
Environment Protection Authority