



Corporate Licensing – a world first

Cutting red tape for Victorian business

Corporate licensing is a world-first initiative for any Victorian business that holds two or more EPA licences. This initiative will cut red tape by:

- **consolidating multiple licences** into a single document
- **streamlining existing reporting structures** to a single annual performance statement
- **creating opportunities** for companies to invest in projects that create the biggest environmental and economic returns.

Mick Bourke, Chairman of EPA Victoria, talks about corporate licensing



Why does EPA license industry?

People want to know that potentially harmful industrial and commercial activities are managed effectively and the environment is protected. EPA's licensing system provides the community with certainty that this is happening.

How is corporate licensing different?

Companies holding two or more EPA licences can now voluntarily amalgamate these into a single 'corporate licence'. A corporate licence retains and simplifies all compliance requirements into a single, easier-to-understand document. In this way, all existing compliance requirements are maintained.

Why would a company be interested in a corporate licence?

No company likes red tape. By slashing red tape, a Corporate Licence frees up a company to work more on improving its environmental performance rather than administration.

What will the outcomes of corporate licensing be?

- Corporate licences will cut the number of EPA licences by up to 30 per cent.
- Victorian businesses will save at least \$15 million per annum.
- Companies will focus their innovation and creativity on environmental improvements that deliver financial returns.
- Companies will work in partnership with each other and EPA to deliver solutions for today's major environmental threats – climate change and water scarcity.
- Companies will reduce energy use, water use and waste generation.

There are approximately 1000 EPA-licensed sites in Victoria. More than 100 businesses hold multiple EPA licences. Water authorities, milk processing factories and food and beverage plants represent a large proportion of these multiple licence holders.

For further information

To find out more about the benefits of a corporate licence, contact EPA's Corporate Licensing Team on **03 9695 2544** or at corporate.licence@epa.vic.gov.au, or speak to your EPA client manager.



Goulburn Valley Water (GVW) has been issued the world's first corporate licence. GVW is a regional water business, managing water supply and wastewater treatment in Victoria's food bowl – the Goulburn Valley.

Prior to amalgamation, GVW held 26 EPA licences, totalling 226 pages of licence requirements. Its new corporate licence is an eight-page document that will save the business at least \$50,000 a year in administration. It also includes a range of projects to further cut costs for the business and benefit the environment, including:

- a carbon neutral strategy
- projects to reduce water use and trade waste by GVW customers
- assessment of existing ways of working to identify resource efficiency and offset opportunities.

GVW's key reductions

Number of licences:
26 to 1

Administrative savings: Minimum
\$50,000 per annum

Length of licensing documentation:
226 to 8 pages

Allen Gale, General Manager Technical Services at Goulburn Valley Water, talks about corporate licensing

What opportunities and benefits do you see for GVW and other businesses in adopting a corporate licence?

It is important that corporate licensing not be seen as simply reducing the paperwork. It is a shift in mindset to one of trust, cooperation and working to 'do the right thing', and having processes in place to minimise the risk of non-complying environmental outcomes.

What challenges did GVW face operating under multiple site licences?

The biggest challenge was getting consistency and applicability of documentation across our 27 sites with separate licences.

What aspects of corporate licensing made it a worthwhile process for GVW to undertake?

The biggest drawcard was the move towards partnering based on sustainability lines. GVW has had a good working relationship with EPA for many years and we saw corporate licensing as an opportunity to cement the relationship more formally.

What impact will these changes have on the way your business operates?

Having only one licence to administer means a significant reduction in paperwork. This will allow our organisation – particularly our environmental services group – to direct more energy towards outcomes rather than bureaucracy.

We have embraced the sustainable business concept and have been working over the last two years to transform aspirations into actions.

The corporate licence is another measure in achieving our sustainability goal. It will help ensure our staff embrace the concepts of sustainability more quickly and with greater commitment.



“I love this licence: I understand my compliance requirements and it lets me get on with sustainability.”

Laurie Gleeson, MD GVW