



# Environmental Protection Authority

## EIA PRINCIPLES FACTORS & OBJECTIVES

### Guide to EIA Environmental Principles, Factors and Objectives

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#### INTRODUCTION

The EPA has prepared this list of generic environmental factors and associated environmental objectives to assist proponents preparing Environmental Scoping and Environmental Review documents. They are broad in their coverage and proponents may need to refine the scope or define additional factors and objectives where appropriate.

It is the EPA's responsibility to determine the environmental factors and objectives that it considers relevant to any proposal assessment. Therefore, it is important to seek early agreement with the EPA on those factors and objectives that a proponent intends to apply in the environmental documentation. The Environmental Scoping document is the appropriate place to do so for PER's and ERMP's.

The EPA has set out the minimum requirements for dealing with environmental issues/factors in the *Guide to Preparing an Environmental Scoping Document* and *Guidelines for Preparing a Public Environmental Review/ Environmental Review and Management Programme*. These are available at [www.epa.wa.gov.au](http://www.epa.wa.gov.au).

For each of these factors, the EPA expects that the proponent will:

- Identify applicable legislation and standards;
- Identify relevant EPA Position Statements, Guidance Statements and criteria;
- Give attention to the principles of environmental protection;
- Consult with relevant government agencies;
- Consult relevant information databases;
- Consult key community members with particular relevant knowledge (eg. Aboriginal people);
- Undertake on-site surveys and investigations where appropriate;
- Review site specific information within a local, regional and cumulative context;
- Evaluate environmental significance; and
- Identify appropriate management approaches and mitigation measures.

Some of these factors will be closely related, especially in terms of their impact or management. In these instances, factors can be combined into issues and addressed in this way in environmental documents. Where this approach is taken, it is important that the document identifies the factors that are being treated as issues.

**TABLE OF GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES, FACTORS AND OBJECTIVES**

FACTOR	OBJECTIVE
Principles of Environmental Protection	To address each of the following principles (set out in section 4A of the EP Act and expanded upon in EPA Position Statement No. 7): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The precautionary principle</li> <li>• The principle of intergenerational equity</li> <li>• The principle of the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity</li> <li>• Principles relating to improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms</li> <li>• The principle of waste minimisation</li> </ul>

FACTOR	ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVE
<b>BIOPHYSICAL</b>	
Flora	To maintain the abundance, diversity, geographic distribution and productivity of flora at species and ecosystem levels through the avoidance or management of adverse impacts and improvement in knowledge.
Fauna	To maintain the abundance, diversity, geographic distribution and productivity of fauna at species and ecosystem levels through the avoidance or management of adverse impacts and improvement in knowledge.
Wetlands (wetlands, rivers)	To maintain the integrity, ecological functions and environmental values of wetlands
Water (surface or ground)	To maintain the quantity of water so that existing and potential environmental values, including ecosystem maintenance, are protected.
Land (terrestrial)	To maintain the integrity, ecological functions and environmental values of the soil and landform.
Land (marine)	To maintain the integrity, ecological functions and environmental values of the seabed and coast.
Conservation Areas	To protect the environmental values of areas identified as having significant environmental attributes.

FACTOR	ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVE
<b>POLLUTION MANAGEMENT</b>	
Air Quality	To ensure that emissions do not adversely affect environment values or the health, welfare and amenity of people and land uses by meeting statutory requirements and acceptable standards
Water Quality (surface, marine or ground)	To ensure that emissions do not adversely affect environment values or the health, welfare and amenity of people and land uses by meeting statutory requirements and acceptable standards

Soil Quality	To ensure that rehabilitation achieves an acceptable standard compatible with the intended land use, and consistent with appropriate criteria
Noise	To protect the amenity of nearby residents from noise impacts resulting from activities associated with the proposal by ensuring the noise levels meet statutory requirements and acceptable standards.
Radiation	To ensure that radiological impacts to the public and the environment are kept as low as reasonably achievable and comply with acceptable standards.
Light	To avoid or manage potential impacts from light overspill and comply with acceptable standards.
Greenhouse gases	To minimise emissions to levels as low as practicable on an on-going basis and consider offsets to further reduce cumulative emissions.

<b>FACTOR</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVE</b>
<b>SOCIAL SURROUNDS</b>	
Heritage	To ensure that changes to the biophysical environment do not adversely affect historical and cultural associations and comply with relevant heritage legislation.
Risk	To ensure that risk from the proposal is as low as reasonably achievable and complies with acceptable standards and EPA criteria.
Visual Amenity	To ensure that aesthetic values are considered and measures are adopted to reduce visual impacts on the landscape as low as reasonably practicable.
Recreation	To ensure that existing and planned recreational uses are not compromised.

<b>FACTOR</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVE</b>
<b>OTHER</b>	
Decommissioning	To ensure, as far as practicable, that rehabilitation achieves a stable and functioning landform which is consistent with the surrounding landscape and other environmental values.