

# Fact sheet: OPLE pilot program



Environment  
Protection  
Authority Victoria

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Fact sheet

## What is the OPLE pilot program?

Local government and Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) play a vital role in responding to pollution and waste issues that compromise environmental and public health, and adversely impact livability and amenity.

As part of its response to the independent inquiry into EPA, the Victorian Government has committed \$4.8 million to implement a pilot program of Officers for the Protection of the Local Environment (OPLEs).

The OPLE pilot program will see 11 officers authorised under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* and embedded within 13 local councils across Victoria. It will run through to the end of 2018.

The goals of the pilot program are:

- to improve responses to pollution and complaints
- to improve industry compliance with their environmental obligations
- to prevent and reduce harm from pollution
- to improve capability and relationships between local government and EPA.

## What is the OPLEs role?

OPLEs are EPA employees authorised to address reports from local community and businesses on lower-risk pollution issues. They will focus on commercial and industrial sources of:

- noise
- odour
- dust
- waste dumping and storage
- litter
- water pollution.

OPLEs will engage with local stakeholders to raise environmental compliance and awareness on these issues.

OPLEs will complement the duties of existing roles, for example: council environmental health officers and planning officers; and EPA environment protection officers.

## Which councils are participating in the pilot?

All Victorian councils were invited to submit an expression of interest to participate in the pilot program.

The councils selected are:

- City of Port Phillip
- City of Casey
- City of Greater Dandenong
- Wyndham City Council
- Surf Coast Shire Council
- Mildura Rural City Council
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- City of Wodonga
- Loddon Shire Council, Buloke Shire Council and Central Goldfields Shire Council (shared OPLE)
- Brimbank City Council and Hobsons Bay City Council (shared OPLE).

## How do I report pollution?

You can report pollution 24 hours a day to EPA's Pollution Hotline **1300 372 842** (1300 EPA VIC).

### OPLE pilot program information

[epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/programs/ople-pilot](http://epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/programs/ople-pilot)

To report pollution call EPA on **1300 372 842** (1300 EPA VIC).

