

Environment Protection Authority: Small Business Program Pilot

Registrations Now Open

Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) in collaboration with VACC, is piloting a Small Business Program to support small businesses to prepare for Victoria's new environment protection laws intended to commence July 2021.

The new environment protection laws mean that if you conduct activities that pose a risk to human health and the environment, you must understand those risks. You must also take [reasonably practicable](#) steps to eliminate or minimise them.

The [general environmental duty](#) (GED), which applies to all Victorians, is at the heart of the new laws. Some small businesses may need help understanding what the new laws mean for them. In particular, how the GED applies to their business.

The small business program pilot will provide tailored expert advice to businesses, focusing on risk assessment management.

The advice is **free**, with EPA covering the cost of an experienced consultant to visit your business. You will receive a **personalised** action plan that lists how your business can start or improve how to manage risks of harm from pollution or waste. This advice may help you comply with the new laws. While the program is administered by EPA, your participation is private and **confidential**.

The pilot program is available to the first 50 small automotive businesses across Victoria. On-site visits will begin in February 2021, running for 12 months. Those who have already registered their interest need not apply as you have already been registered to participate in this program.

Who can apply?

If you employ less than 60 staff and are:

- an automotive repair and maintenance business or
- an automotive body repair business.

You also need to be available for two consultant visits between February 2021 and February 2022 and fill out two short surveys following each visit. Your answers will help EPA understand the benefits of the program to businesses like yours. Note that EPA will not attend these visits and will not receive your personal information from the consultants.

For more information or to register for the pilot program, go to epa.vic.gov.au/small-business-pilot.

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