



Media Statement

12 October 2017

Light Industry Program to stay

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation's (DWER) Light Industry Program (LIP) will continue for another 12 months in a bid to further reduce contaminants entering the environment from light industrial premises.

The program – originally funded for two years by the Australian Government's National Landcare Programme – was a joint initiative between DWER; the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions; and seven local governments located within priority catchments of the Swan and Canning rivers.

DWER will continue to administer the LIP and provide support to local governments until at least July 2018.

The program aims to reduce contaminants entering groundwater and stormwater drainage systems at small to medium-size light industrial premises.

DWER Senior Manager Pollution Response Ken Raine said the LIP focused on achieving better environmental compliance by providing advice and support to business owners and operators.

“This program demonstrates the value of an effective partnership with local governments, where education and regulatory options are used to achieve positive outcomes,” he said.

To date the LIP has conducted 918 audits of light industrial premises – almost doubling the original target of 500. Inspections aim to assist proprietors through an educational approach to improve their business practices and comply with environmental regulations.

Officers found that 73.4 per cent of premises did not comply with environmental laws when first inspected. Over the two years of the LIP operation, that non-compliance rate has dropped significantly to 12.5 per cent.

Where breaches are identified, industries are educated and given the chance to come into compliance. Where follow-up audits identify continuing breaches, infringement notices are issued.

For further information on the LIP, please [click here](#).

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