

FACT SHEET

Environmental Management and Pollution Control Amendment (EPA Independence) Bill 2021

The *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Amendment (EPA Independence) Bill 2021* amends the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* to provide for the independence of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) from government. The bill does this by –

- Introducing provisions that stipulate that the EPA is not subject to the direction or control of the Minister.
- Repealing sections 15, 15A, 15B and 15C of the Principal Act, which provide for the Minister to issue a statement of expectations to the EPA and requires the EPA to conform with this statement of expectations.

The provisions providing for the independence of the EPA are similar to provisions that make many other offices independent, including the office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People, the Tasmanian Audit Office, the Integrity Commission, and the office of the Tasmanian Economic Regulator.