



Coordinating environmental information

The National Plan for Environmental Information initiative established the Bureau of Meteorology as Australia's central coordinating authority for environmental information. This role involves developing, supporting and enhancing an Australian Government environmental information network.

The National Plan for Environmental Information initiative

Governments, industry and the community need comprehensive, trusted and timely environmental information to make sound decisions about the major issues affecting our natural assets.

Established in mid-2010, the National Plan for Environmental Information (NPEI) initiative is an Australian Government program to improve the quality and accessibility of environmental information.

Central coordination of environmental information is one of the main activities that will deliver on the NPEI initiative's objectives. Other activities include the development of products and services, the national environmental information infrastructure, and environmental accounts.

Coordinating environmental information

Under the NPEI initiative, the Bureau of Meteorology has a coordination role for Australian Government environmental information activity. The importance of one agency taking on this role was recently affirmed by the **Independent Review of Australian Government Environmental Information Activity**. The role will be delivered through the following:

Coordination

- establish and maintain governance arrangements for whole-of-government coordination around environmental activities
- compile and maintain a directory of Australian Government environmental information products and services.



Collaboration

- work across the Australian Government to identify the requirements (drivers) for environmental information
- collaborate across Australian Government to progress selected products and services.

Communication

- promote cross-agency awareness of existing environmental information activity
- develop communities of interest for the development, improvement and sustainability of environmental information products and services.

Achievements

Australian Government Environmental Information Advisory Group

The Australian Government Environmental Information Advisory Group was established in late 2010. This group comprises senior representatives of Australian Government portfolios and agencies that use or produce environmental information in policy development, research, monitoring, analysis, modelling and reporting.



The Advisory Group provides a formal collaboration and information-sharing mechanism for Australian Government agencies. It has been a critical mechanism to enable stakeholders to work together.

Statement of Australian Government Requirements for Environmental Information

Published in 2012 by the Australian Government Environmental Information Advisory Group, the **Statement of Australian Government Requirements for Environmental Information**:

- identifies the Australian Government's enduring and critical requirements for environmental information
- provides the Australian Government with a framework to enable more detailed priority setting and targeted collaboration.

Product and service priorities

In late 2012, the Bureau coordinated a whole-of-government consultation process to identify Australian Government environmental information product and service priorities. While the process was framed around climate change-related information needs, results traverse multiple types of environmental information. The process captured both current capability and future needs and has led to further activity including the production of a product and services directory.

Products and services directory

The Bureau has developed the first phase of a web-based **Australian Government environmental information products and services directory**. The directory provides a central resource for improved awareness of the extensive suite of environmental products and services of importance to the Australian Government and its partners.



eXchange

In collaboration with our Australian Government partners, the Bureau publishes the electronic newsletter **eXchange**. This newsletter provides an important cross-agency information sharing platform and includes:

- information about new and existing environmental products and services
- major events and activities
- new publications
- data releases
- international activities of interest.

Improving information sharing

The establishment of the NPEI initiative has provided an important mechanism to improve how the Australian Government collaborates around environmental information at both strategic and technical levels. Through targeted coordination, collaboration and communication activities, the Bureau is providing a focal point for improving access to environmental information across the Australian Government.

For further information

For further information about the Bureau's environmental information role, visit www.bom.gov.au/environment or contact environment@bom.gov.au

