



Greg Aplin MP
Member for Albury

MEDIA RELEASE

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COUNCIL REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM TO HELP COUNCILS FUND CONTAMINATED WASTE EXPERTS

Member for Albury, Greg Aplin has announced the 2018–21 Council Regional Capacity Building Program to fund contaminated land experts in regional areas to help with contaminated site management and provide a local source of advice. The program opens for applications on Monday, 4 June.

“The program will provide added expertise to help councils manage contamination and safeguard community wellbeing,” Mr Aplin said.

“The program is flexible to meet the needs of regional councils, providing funding for the placement of council officers with contaminated land expertise or for NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) contaminated land officers based in regional EPA offices.”

The EPA regulates contaminated sites where the contamination is significant enough to warrant regulation. Contaminated sites that are not regulated by the EPA are managed by local councils through land-use planning processes.

Activities that will be funded include the development of contaminated land policies, procedures and registers, and workshops for council staff to help with identifying and managing contaminated sites.

The officers can also help with planning the handover of responsibilities for Underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS) to councils.

The EPA will continue as the appropriate regulatory authority for UPSS matters up to 31 August 2019, after which councils will take over this role. The EPA will continue to work with councils to ensure integrated management and regulatory oversight of fuel handling and storage systems.

The program is only available to regional organisations of councils or groups of three or more regional councils. The NSW EPA is funding up to 10 hours of assistance for each eligible applicant, to help them develop their application.

Applications close on 17 July.

To learn more about the program and application process visit <https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/working-together/grants/council-regional-capacity-building-program>.

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