

National Harmonised Auditor Accreditation Process 2026

July 2026

Key information

- A National Harmonised Auditor Accreditation Process (NHAAP) was endorsed by the Heads of EPA (HEPA) in 2024. The purpose of creating the NHAAP is to provide an efficient national approach to the initial accreditation of site contamination auditors. It provides a consistent and more transparent process for applicants and increases efficiencies for regulators, while maintaining the jurisdictions as accreditation authorities.
- The inaugural round of the NHAAP will commence in September 2026 (the 2026 NHAAP).
- Suitably qualified and experienced environmental practitioners who are experts in site contamination assessment, remediation and management will have the opportunity to apply for accreditation or appointment as a site contamination auditor in **either** New South Wales (NSW), Queensland (Qld), South Australia (SA) or Western Australia (WA).
- Each applicant must select one jurisdiction as their primary accreditation jurisdiction, with successful applicants being accredited by their nominated primary accreditation jurisdiction in accordance with jurisdiction-specific legislation. The NHAAP does not provide a nationally recognised accreditation.
- The NHAAP is a nationally coordinated application and assessment process for the initial accreditation of auditors. A National Accreditation Panel (NAP) will assess competencies relevant to site contamination assessment, remediation and management and the ethical and professional conduct of applicants and provide independent advisory recommendations to each applicant's primary accreditation jurisdiction.
- Primary accreditation jurisdictions will assess applicants' knowledge and application of jurisdiction-specific legislation, policy and guidance.
- Primary accreditation jurisdictions are responsible for final accreditation decisions.
- The NHAAP does not affect individuals already accredited as a site contamination auditor. Processes for mutual recognition between jurisdictions (including automatic mutual recognition) for auditors that are already accredited have not changed.
- New South Wales Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA), Queensland Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (Qld DETSI), South Australia Environment Protection Authority (SA EPA) and Western Australia Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (WA DWER) are actively participating in the 2026 NHAAP as primary accreditation jurisdictions. EPA

Victoria is not actively participating in the 2026 NHAAP, due to the accreditation round undertaken in Victoria (Vic) in 2024/2025.

- SA EPA and NSW EPA are coordinating the 2026 NHAAP, in their roles as host and supporting jurisdictions. The responsibilities of each jurisdiction throughout the NHAAP varies depending on the jurisdiction's role.

Introduction

In the 2026 NHAAP, suitably qualified and experienced environmental practitioners who are experts in site contamination will have the opportunity to apply for accreditation or appointment as a site contamination auditor¹ in either NSW, Qld, SA or WA. As legislation maintains individual jurisdictions as the accreditation authorities, each applicant must select one of these jurisdictions as their primary accreditation jurisdiction. The primary accreditation jurisdiction is the jurisdiction in which successful applicants will be granted accreditation.

The NHAAP was endorsed by the HEPA in 2024. It provides a nationally coordinated application and assessment process. A NAP will assess competencies relevant to site contamination assessment, remediation and management and the ethical and professional conduct of applicants. The NAP provides independent advisory recommendations to each applicant's primary accreditation jurisdiction.

Final accreditation decisions remain the responsibility of the primary accreditation jurisdiction, including assessment of the applicant's knowledge and application of jurisdiction-specific legislation, policy and guidance.

An applicant will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and demonstrated abilities at a level which is to the satisfaction of the NAP or the relevant primary accreditation jurisdiction at each stage of the assessment process. If an applicant fails any stage of the assessment process, they will not progress to the next stage.

This information sheet provides guidance for environmental practitioners who wish to apply for accreditation in one of the primary accreditation jurisdictions participating in the 2026 NHAAP. It outlines the objectives of establishing a NHAAP and the national approach to the technical and professional assessment of applicants. It also outlines the application process in each of the primary accreditation jurisdictions. Applicants should review any additional information provided by and attend any information sessions held by their nominated primary accreditation jurisdiction.

Jurisdictional-specific information

Where different, the information in this information sheet augments and supersedes information on the auditor accreditation process in the following guidance for the participating jurisdictions:

¹ Auditors for site contamination are individuals who are environmental professionals and experts in site contamination and are appointed or accredited by regulatory authorities and are required to perform their role and responsibilities in accordance with relevant statutes and frameworks established and in effect in each jurisdiction. Such individuals may be referred to in each of the jurisdictions participating in the NHAAP as auditors / accredited site auditors / contaminated land site auditors / environmental auditors (contaminated land) / site contamination auditors / contaminated site auditors.

NSW	https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/Your-environment/Contaminated-land/site-auditor-scheme/Site-auditor-accreditation-process Guidelines for the NSW site auditor scheme (3rd edition) (available at https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/17p0269-guidelines-for-the-nsw-site-auditor-scheme-third-edition.pdf)
Qld	Queensland auditor handbook for contaminated land Module 2: Auditor application requirements Module 3: Assessment of auditor applications (available at https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/environmental/contaminated-land/auditors/auditor-handbook)
SA	Guidelines for the site contamination audit system (available at: https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/files/4771800_guidelines_sc_audit.pdf)
WA	Accreditation of Contaminated Sites Auditors (available at https://www.wa.gov.au/government/publications/accreditation-of-contaminated-sites-auditors)

Background to site contamination audit systems

Australian state governments recognise site contamination as a major environmental issue. Contamination poses a potential threat to public health and the environment, and can have significant economic, legal and planning implications. The audit system provides a critical link between the contamination status of land, the suitability of land for its current or proposed use, and the planning process.

Auditors for site contamination are individuals who are environmental professionals and experts in site contamination and are appointed or accredited by regulatory authorities. Auditors are required to perform their role and responsibilities in accordance with relevant statutes and frameworks established and in effect in each jurisdiction. Such individuals may be referred to in each of the participating jurisdictions as auditors / accredited site auditors / contaminated land site auditors / environmental auditors (contaminated land) / site contamination auditors / contaminated site auditors.

Only individuals with appropriate qualifications, knowledge, understanding and expertise in the assessment and remediation of site contamination are eligible to be accredited as auditors. National guidance which describes the competencies and experience that are essential for auditors involved in contaminated sites and a general framework for the appointment or acceptance by regulatory authorities of auditors is provided in the *National Environment Protection (Assessment of Site Contamination) Measure 1999*² (NEPM 2013).

Statutory audit systems for contaminated sites/land have been established and are operational in NSW, Qld, SA, Vic and WA. The systems are established and administered through a combination of legislation,

² The NEPM is made under the *National Environment Protection Council (NEPC) Act 1994* and is given effect by individual legislation and/or guidelines in each state and territory.

regulations and guidance specific to those jurisdictions. In general, these systems reflect the national guidance provided in the NEPM 2013, however, there are some variations between the jurisdictions.

The Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory and Tasmania currently adopt the use of auditors accredited in other jurisdictions, and these processes are not changed by the implementation of the NHAAP.

Objectives of the NHAAP

The overarching objective of the NHAAP is to provide a streamlined and consistent process across Australia for the initial appointment or accreditation of individuals as auditors, while ensuring the high standards of those who are appointed or accredited. The NHAAP has been designed to be consistent with national guidance, provided in Schedule B9 of the NEPM 2013.

Currently, each jurisdiction is responsible for administering its own audit scheme and maintaining their scheme's integrity by appointing or accrediting auditors. The purpose of creating the NHAAP is to provide an efficient national approach to the accreditation of site contamination auditors, which will:

- establish a common technical standard in line with Schedule B9 of the NEPM 2013 for auditor accreditation across jurisdictions
- create a consistent and more transparent process for applicants
- increase the confidence in mutual recognition of auditors across jurisdictions
- reduce compliance and regulatory burdens for industry
- increase efficiencies and lower costs for regulators.

Jurisdictions participating in the NHAAP

Jurisdictions that have signed up to the NHAAP, collectively known as participating jurisdictions, include:

- Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA Victoria)
- New South Wales Environment Protection Authority (NSW EPA)
- Queensland Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation (Qld DETSI)
- South Australia Environment Protection Authority (SA EPA)
- Western Australia Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (WA DWER).

NSW EPA, Qld DETSI, SA EPA, and WA DWER are actively participating in the 2026 NHAAP. EPA Victoria is not actively participating, due to the accreditation round undertaken in Vic in 2024/2025.

SA EPA is the host jurisdiction for the 2026 NHAAP and NSW EPA is the supporting jurisdiction. The responsibilities of each jurisdiction during the NHAAP varies depending on the role of the jurisdiction (i.e., host, supporting, actively participating, or observing jurisdiction).

National Accreditation Panel

The NAP is an independent advisory body that supports the technical and professional assessment of applicants as a part of the NHAAP.

The NAP's role is to assess all of the competencies relevant to site contamination assessment, remediation and management required for individuals to be accredited or appointed as site contamination auditors, in accordance with Schedule B9 of the NEPM 2013. The NAP also assesses an applicant's demonstrated ability to act independently on the basis of factual evidence, and their adherence to ethical and professional standards of conduct.

Following the NAP assessment process, the NAP provides advice to the primary accreditation jurisdiction as to whether applicants meet the assessment criteria the NAP is required to consider. If the assessment criteria have been met, the NAP recommends to the relevant primary accreditation jurisdiction that they accredit or appoint the individual as a site contamination auditor subject to any further requirements of the primary accreditation jurisdiction and the primary accreditation jurisdiction's final decision.

The NAP does not have delegated decision-making authority in relation to accreditation. Final accreditation decisions are made by the relevant primary accreditation jurisdictions.

The NAP is appointed by the host jurisdiction, being SA EPA for the 2026 NHAAP.

The NAP for each national accreditation round will comprise a minimum of five members, and will include the following:

- Chair – a senior representative from the host jurisdiction with knowledge and experience in site contamination and the accreditation of auditors
- Deputy Chair – a senior representative from the supporting jurisdiction with knowledge and experience in site contamination and the accreditation of auditors
- Technical experts –
 - at least two technical experts in the discipline of site contamination (by way of academia, research, assessment, remediation or auditing), including, if available, a specialist in risk communication
 - a person who is a technical expert in human toxicology and has knowledge of site contamination and, if available, is a representative of a government health agency.

Each NAP member must be able to demonstrate that they:

- hold directly relevant qualifications
- have at least eight years of relevant experience.

Technical experts are also required to demonstrate that they are current members of professional organisations/associations relevant to the field(s) of any nominated technical expertise.

NAP members must agree to adhere to ethical, impartiality, conflict of interest and confidentiality requirements.

When establishing the NAP, where possible the host jurisdiction will aim to achieve diversity in the membership.

The NAP may co-opt external technical advisors (such as technical experts or specialist advisors) to support with the assessment process when required. This may include to review technical reports submitted by applicants as a part of their *Part A – Technical* application or participating in the interview panels as a technical expert member of the panel. Technical advisors to the NAP must demonstrate the level of experience and expertise required of NAP members and must agree to adhere to ethical, impartiality, conflict of interest and confidentiality requirements.

The membership of the NAP will be advised to applicants in October 2026.

Overview of application and assessment process

Figure 1 shows an overview of the application and assessment process for the 2026 NHAAP. Further information on each of the stages is provided below.

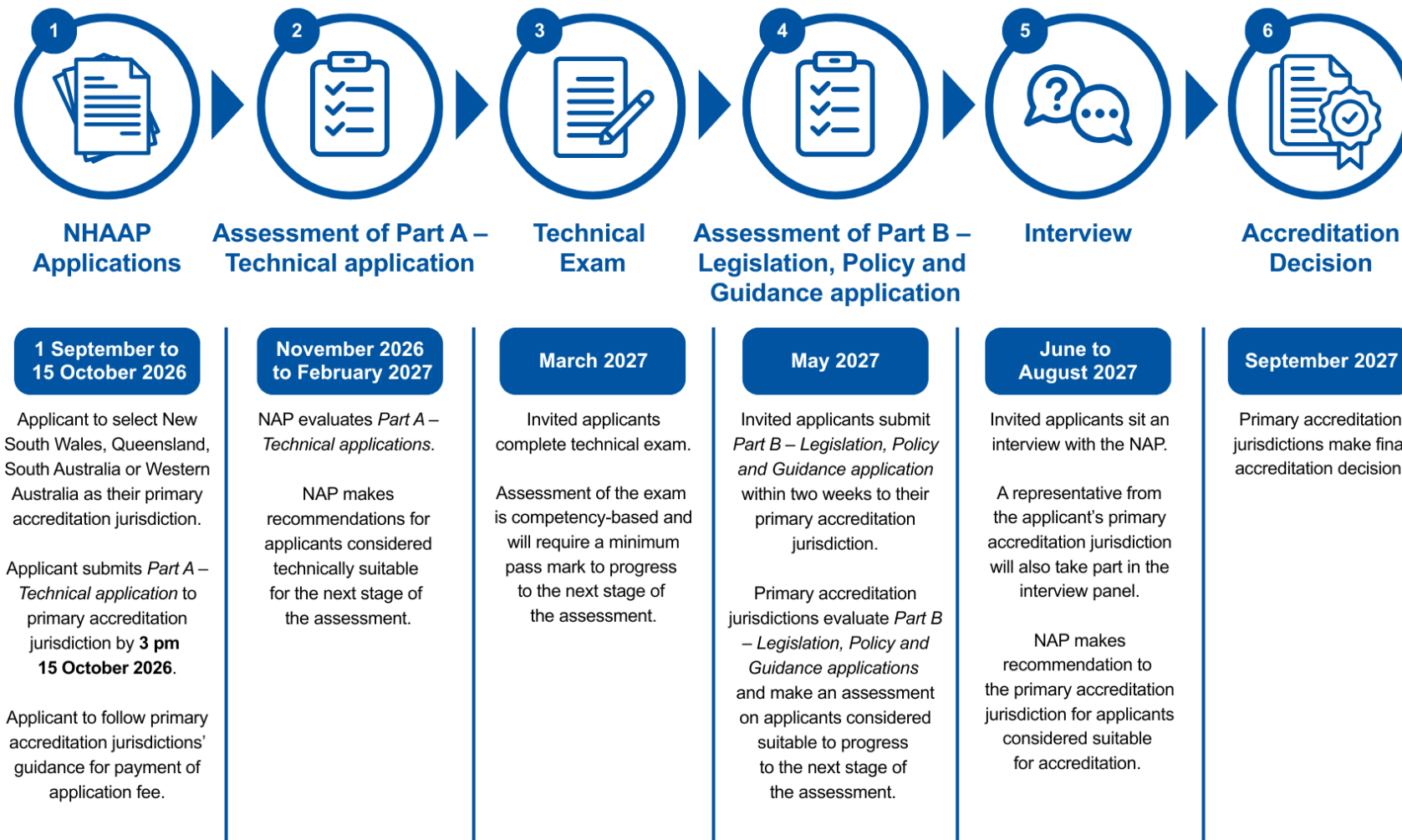


Figure 1. Stages of the 2026 NHAAP and indicative timing

Note: The proposed timings are indicative and may vary depending on the number of applications received and operational considerations

Application process

Applicants are required to nominate one primary accreditation jurisdiction, which is the jurisdiction they wish to be initially accredited in. Applicants can not apply for accreditation in more than one jurisdiction during the 2026 NHAAP.

Mutual recognition processes are not impacted by the implementation of the NHAAP. Information on mutual recognition processes is provided below.

Applications will be open in each of the primary accreditation jurisdictions from Tuesday 1 September to Thursday 15 October 2026.

Applicants must complete the application forms provided by their nominated primary accreditation jurisdiction and follow the submission requirements outlined by that jurisdiction.

Application fees must be paid to the nominated primary accreditation jurisdiction.

While the application forms may vary for each jurisdiction based on relevant legislation, policy and/or guidance, the NHAAP application for all jurisdictions has two components:

- *Part A – Technical* application is the first part of the NHAAP application form to be completed by applicants, and it focusses on technical competencies in accordance with Schedule B9 of the NEPM 2013 and the ethical and professional standards of conduct of the applicant.
- *Part B – Legislation, Policy and Guidance* application is the second part of the NHAAP application form to be completed by applicants, and it assess an applicant's knowledge of relevant legislation, guidance and policies in the primary accreditation jurisdiction.

Jurisdictional-specific information	
The following information is specific to applicants when applying in their nominated primary accreditation jurisdiction:	
NSW	• Part A and Part B application forms will be available from 4 August 2026 to download from the NSW EPA webpage: https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/Your-environment/Contaminated-land/site-auditor-scheme/Site-auditor-accreditation-process. • Application forms must be signed by the applicant and completed in accordance with the instructions contained in the form. • Applicants must submit their completed Part A form by 3 pm on 15 October 2026 to the NSW EPA, via email to nswauditors@epa.nsw.gov.au. • The NSW application fees are set under section 6 of the <i>Contaminated Land Management Regulation 2022</i>. The fee is adjusted on 1 September each year, in line with movements in the Public Sector Wage Price Index. For applicants nominating NSW as their primary accreditation jurisdiction, the NSW application fee will be

	confirmed prior to 1 September 2026. For information, the application fee for the previous year was \$1337. Application fees are non-refundable.
Qld	- Part A and Part B application forms will be available from 4 August 2026 to download from the Qld DETSI webpage: https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/environmental/contaminated-land/auditors/auditor-applications. - Application forms must be signed by the applicant and completed in accordance with the instructions contained in the form. - Applicants must submit their completed Part A form by 3 pm on 15 October 2026, to Qld DETSI, via email to PALM@detsi.qld.gov.au - In Qld, the fee is paid at the final accreditation decision stage. The fee is prescribed in Schedule 15 of the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019. The fee for the 2026/2027 FY is \$1,618. Application fees are non-refundable.
SA	- Part A and Part B application forms will be available from 4 August 2026 to download from the SA EPA webpage: epa.sa.gov.au/2026-NHAAP. - Application forms must be signed by the applicant and completed in accordance with the instructions contained in the form. - Applicants must submit their completed Part A form by 3 pm on 15 October 2026 to the SA EPA, via email to EPASiteContam@sa.gov.au (attention Principal Adviser (Audit)). - Applicants must pay the application for accreditation fee by 3 pm on 15 October 2026. In SA, the application fee is prescribed in Schedule 4 of the <i>Environment Protection Regulations 2023</i> (EP Regulations). The fee for the 2026/2027 FY is \$641. Application fees are non-refundable.
WA	- Part A and Part B application forms will be available from 4 August 2026 to download from the WA DWER webpage: wa.gov.au/government/document-collections/contaminated-sites-forms. - Application forms must be signed by the applicant and completed in accordance with the instructions contained in the form. - Applicants must submit their completed Part A form by 3 pm on 15 October 2026 to the WA DWER, via email to info@dwer.wa.gov.au (attention to Senior Manager Contaminated Sites). - Applicants must pay the application for accreditation fee by 3 pm on 15 October 2026. In WA, the application fee is prescribed in Schedule 2 of the Contaminated Sites Regulations 2006. The fee is currently \$440. Application fees are non-refundable.

Note: applicants should consult their primary accreditation jurisdiction's Part A application form for information on large file transfer processes, if required.

Assessment of Part A application

Primary accreditation jurisdictions will perform an administrative check of each Part A application received to ensure applications are complete. Complete applications will be forwarded to the host jurisdiction (SA EPA), who will coordinate the evaluation of Part A applications by the NAP. Part A applications will be anonymised by the host jurisdiction before being provided to the NAP.

Before recommending a candidate to proceed to the technical exam stage, the NAP will consider whether the applicant demonstrates the following in their Part A application:

- The technical competencies described in Schedule B9 of the NEPM 2013.
- A sound ability and experience in forming and managing a multidisciplinary team for complex site assessment which contains the appropriate balance of expertise.
- A thorough understanding of the principles of, and methods for, conducting contaminated site assessments and environmental audits and be able to act independently using balanced professional judgement based on site-specific data and the advice of specialised support professionals.
- Up-to-date knowledge of relevant scientific, technical developments and regulatory literature relating to new legislation and court proceedings and decisions relating to contaminated sites.
- A demonstrated understanding of the NEPM 2013 and other national guidance documents relevant to contamination and a demonstrated consistency in carrying out and reporting of assessments.
- Individual membership of and/or accreditation from one or more relevant professional societies (depending on the requirements of each primary accreditation jurisdiction and outlined in the *Part A – Technical* application form). Applicants should also be able to demonstrate membership and/or accreditation of professional associations relevant to the competencies listed in Schedule B9 of the NEPM 2013.
- An active commitment to ongoing training and professional development relevant to the competencies listed in Schedule B9 of the NEPM 2013 as detailed above, and the assessment and/or remediation of site contamination. Applicants must provide evidence of continuous professional development and learning outcomes.

Technical exam

Applicants recommended by the NAP will be invited to sit an open-book exam.

The selected applicants will be provided with a written overview of the examination prior to the examination, and the delivery format (for example, in-person or online) will be advised to applicants. As an overview, the technical exam will consist of four sections:

- data evaluation
- exposure and pathway assessment
- human toxicology and ecotoxicology

- remediation and site management.

Assessment is competency-based and will require a minimum pass mark.

Assessment of Part B application

The Part B application is assessed by the primary accreditation jurisdiction, in accordance with its legislation, policy and guidance.

Part B forms will be made available at the same time as the Part A forms. This is to allow applicants to prepare the Part A and Part B applications together, as this may be preferable to the applicant (noting that an applicant may not be successful in reaching the Part B assessment stage).

Applicants may wish to submit the Part B form at the same time as submitting Part A, however, this is not a requirement and Part B forms will only be considered if an applicant is successful at the exam stage.

If applicants are successful at the exam stage, they will be invited to submit their Part B application form (if not already submitted) to their primary accreditation jurisdiction.

Invited applicants must submit their Part B application form within two weeks of receiving the invitation to submit.

Interview

The NAP forms the technical evaluation panel for the interview. To support the efficient progression of interviews, where a core NAP member is unavailable for a scheduled interview, a technical advisor to the NAP may participate in an interview. Technical advisors can only act as a proxy for a technical expert with a similar area of expertise.

Representatives of the primary accreditation jurisdiction will also take part in the panel where the applicant has nominated that jurisdiction as their primary accreditation jurisdiction, and will ask questions specific to the legislation, policy and guidance specific to that jurisdiction.

Applicants will be informed of the interview panel membership prior to the interview taking place.

Primary accreditation jurisdictions will undertake referee checks to assess suitability of applicants selected for interview. The primary accreditation jurisdictions will document findings and provide copies to the host jurisdiction to enable consideration as part of the NAP interview process.

A case study will be used as the basis for the interview. Applicants selected for interview will be provided with the case study and a series of questions prior to commencement of the interview.

Applicants will be assessed by the NAP on their ability to:

- demonstrate the knowledge, understanding and ability described in their written application and written exam
- competently and objectively review data relating to the case study and the assessment of contaminated land
- correctly identify the key risks posed to the environment and human health

- communicate their knowledge and understanding effectively whilst demonstrating the logical basis of the decision-making processes used
- carry out the role and responsibilities of an auditor.

The representative of the primary accreditation jurisdiction will also assess the applicant's knowledge specific to the legislation, policy and guidance specific to that jurisdiction.

Final decision on accreditation

Following the NAP assessment process, the NAP provides advice to the primary accreditation jurisdictions as to whether an applicant meets the assessment criteria the NAP is required to consider. If the assessment criteria have been met, the NAP recommends to the relevant primary accreditation jurisdiction that they accredit the individual as a site contamination auditor subject to any further requirements of the primary accreditation jurisdiction and the primary accreditation jurisdiction's final decision.

Primary accreditation jurisdictions will make the final accreditation decisions. Applicants should refer to the information provided by their primary accreditation jurisdiction to understand decision making processes relevant to that jurisdiction.

Jurisdictional-specific information	
Information on the accreditation process for each of the primary accreditation jurisdictions is provided below:	
NSW	In NSW, auditors are accredited under part 4 of the <i>Contaminated Land Management Act 1997</i>. The final determination on granting accreditation is made by the NSW EPA Chief Executive Officer. Auditors who are accredited in NSW must comply with the requirements of the Guidelines for the NSW site auditor scheme (3rd edition) (available at https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/17p0269-guidelines-for-the-nsw-site-auditor-scheme-third-edition.pdf). Decisions relating to the grant of accreditation are made taking into account a range of information including: • the recommendations of the NAP and the NSW Auditor Accreditation Panel (established by the NSW EPA) • relevant information where provided by other jurisdictions • the nature of the declarations made by an applicant in their written application • results of discussions with referees. The EPA may attach conditions to a site auditor's accreditation. Auditors must comply with all conditions of their accreditation. Failure to do so is grounds for their accreditation to be suspended, revoked or not renewed. There is no formal appeals process under the <i>Contaminated Land Management Act 1997</i> for unsuccessful applications for auditor accreditation. However, unsuccessful applicants can seek feedback from the EPA after completing any stage of the accreditation process.

Qld	In Qld, auditor approvals and functions are regulated under the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1994</i>. The final determination on granting accreditation is made by the Qld DETSI Chief Executive. Decisions relating to the grant of accreditation are made taking into account a range of information including: • recommendations of the NAP and the Qld DETSI Auditor Support team • relevant information provided by other jurisdictions • the nature of declarations made by an applicant in their written application • results of discussions with referees. Accreditation is granted subject to the terms and conditions prescribed in Module 2. Requirements for accreditation include membership with a prescribed organisation under Schedule 14 of the Environmental Protection Regulation, 2019, certification with an appropriate professional body and holding adequate professional indemnity insurance. Auditors who are accredited in Qld must comply with the requirements of Module 4: Code of professional conduct (available at https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/environmental/contaminated-land/auditors/auditor-handbook). If a person disagrees with a decision made by Qld DETSI, the person is encouraged to contact the Manager of Capability, Emerging Contaminants, Auditor Support Team via email at contaminatedlandauditor@detsi.qld.gov.au to discuss the decision in the first instance. If the issue remains unresolved the dissatisfied person should apply for an internal review of the original decision under s. 521 of the EP Act. If the person is still dissatisfied after the review, they can appeal against the decision to the Planning and Environmental Court. The EP Act, ss. 531–539, describes how to appeal a decision. The same appeal process applies if an auditor is dissatisfied with the conditions that are imposed on an approval.
SA	In SA, site contamination auditor accreditation is granted to a person by the EPA under Part 10A of Division 4 of the <i>Environment Protection Act 1993</i>. The eligibility criteria and the application requirements for a person seeking auditor accreditation are prescribed in Regulation 51 of the Environment Protection Regulations 2023 (EP Regulations) (available at: https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/lz?path=/c/r/environment%20protection%20regulations%202023). The final determination on granting accreditation is made by the SA EPA Chief Executive. Decisions relating to the grant of accreditation are made taking into account a range of information including: • the recommendations of the NAP and the Local Accreditation Panel (established by the SA EPA) • relevant information where provided by other jurisdictions • the nature of the declarations made by an applicant in their written application • results of discussions with referees • results of a national police check.

	Accreditation is granted subject to the terms and conditions prescribed in the EP Regulations and any requirements set out in the SA EPA publication Guidelines for the site contamination audit system (available at https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/files/4771800_guidelines_sc_audit.pdf). A fee for the granting of accreditation applies, in accordance with EP Regulation 53. If a person disagrees with a decision made by the SA EPA, the person is encouraged to contact the Manager Site Contamination (via EPASiteContam@sa.gov.au) to discuss the decision in the first instance. If the issue remains unresolved it may be raised with the EPA Chief Executive. In accordance with EP Regulation 61, if the SA EPA refuses to grant an applicant accreditation, an applicant may seek a review by the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal under section 34 of the <i>South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2013</i>. An application for review must be made within 1 month after the making of the decision.
WA	In WA, site contamination auditor accreditation is granted to a person by the Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) under Section 69 of the <i>Contaminated Sites Act 2003</i>. The eligibility criteria and the application requirements for a person seeking auditor accreditation are prescribed in the <i>Contaminated Sites Regulations 2006</i> and the guideline publications <i>The Western Australian Contaminated Sites Auditor Scheme</i> (DWER, July 2024) and <i>Accreditation of Contaminated Sites Auditors</i> (DWER, July 2024). The final determination on granting accreditation is made by the WA DWER Chief Executive Officer. Decisions relating to the grant of accreditation are made taking into account a range of information including: - the recommendations of the NAP and the Local Accreditation Panel (established by WA DWER) - relevant information where provided by other jurisdictions - the nature of the declarations made by an applicant in their written application - relevant information provided by referees. Accreditation is granted subject to the terms and conditions prescribed in the <i>Contaminated Sites Regulations 2006</i> and any requirements set out in the WA DWER publication <i>The Western Australian Contaminated Sites Auditor Scheme</i>. To obtain feedback on a decision made by WA DWER, the person is encouraged to make a request via info@dwer.wa.gov.au (attention to Senior Manager, Contaminated Sites).

Special considerations

Applicants will need to advise whether they have any medical or other needs to assist the SA EPA (host jurisdiction) and their primary accreditation jurisdiction in making any necessary arrangements during the application and assessment stages. Where possible and practicable to do, the SA EPA and the primary accreditation jurisdictions will seek to accommodate the applicant's needs.

Mutual recognition

Under s17(1)(a) of the federal *Mutual Recognition Act 1992* (Commonwealth), a person who is registered in one jurisdiction for an occupation can be entitled to be registered in an equivalent occupation in another jurisdiction.

Processes for mutual recognition (including automatic mutual recognition) for auditors that are already accredited have not changed. Currently accredited auditors should refer to information provided by the jurisdiction they wish to apply for mutual recognition in for specific application processes. Note that not all states currently support automatic mutual recognition.

Successful applicants to the 2026 NHAAP will only be granted accreditation in one jurisdiction, being their nominated primary accreditation jurisdiction. If applicants to the 2026 NHAAP wish to be accredited in more than one jurisdiction, they will need to apply via mutual recognition processes once they have been granted accreditation in their nominated primary accreditation jurisdiction.

Jurisdictional-specific information	
The following jurisdictional-specific information is available on mutual recognition processes:	
NSW	Information can be found on the webpage https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/Your-environment/Contaminated-land/site-auditor-scheme/Site-auditor-accreditation-process
Qld	Information can be found on the webpage https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/management/environmental/contaminated-land/auditors/auditor-applications
SA	Information can be found on the webpage https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental_info/site_contamination/auditor_accreditation
WA	Information can be found on the webpage https://www.wa.gov.au/service/environment/environment-information-services/contaminated-sites-auditors and in the publication Accreditation of Contaminated Sites Auditors (DWER, July 2024, available at https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-07/accreditation-of-contaminated-sites-auditors.pdf)

Future NHAAPs

Accreditation rounds will generally occur every three years, but not less than every two years.

The jurisdictional roles for each accreditation round (such as the role of host jurisdiction) will sequentially rotate through each of the actively participating jurisdictions. The host jurisdiction will establish a NAP for each round.

Contact details

For enquiries relating to applications, applicants are encouraged to contact their nominated primary accreditation jurisdiction representative(s). General enquiries may be directed to SA EPA.

NSW	NSW EPA representatives: - Jo Graham (Principal Technical Advisor – Contaminated Land Management) T: 9995 5609 - Anthea White (Unit Head – Contaminated Land Management) T: 9995 5767 E: nswauditors@epa.nsw.gov.au
Qld	Qld DETSI representative: Wayne Murray (Principal Project Officer, Auditor Support) E: Wayne.Murray@detsi.qld.gov.au or contaminatedlandauditor@detsi.qld.au
SA	SA EPA representative: Madeleine Thomas (Principal Adviser, Site Contamination (Audit)) T: 08 8204 9499 E: madeleine.thomas@sa.gov.au or EPASiteContam@sa.gov.au
WA	WA DWER representative: Penny Woodberry (Manager, Contaminated Sites) T: 08 6364 7197 E: penny.woodberry@dwer.wa.gov.au or info@dwer.wa.gov.au marked for the attention of Senior Manager Contaminated Sites

Disclaimer

This publication is a guide only and does not necessarily provide adequate information in relation to every situation. If you have specific questions relating to your application, it is recommended that you contact your nominated primary accreditation jurisdiction representative(s).

Further information

Legislation

[Online legislation](#) is freely available.

General information

Environment Protection Authority

GPO Box 2607

Adelaide SA 5001

Telephone: (08) 8204 2004

Website: <https://www.epa.sa.gov.au>

Email: epainfo@sa.gov.au
