



## **Laura Burke**

Laura Burke is the Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Ireland

Laura Burke was appointed as Director General of the EPA in late 2011. The EPA plays a central role in protecting the environment for the people of Ireland, as a knowledge provider, environmental regulator and advocate for the environment. A clean, healthy and well-protected environment supports a sustainable society and economy. With the growing urgency and increasing public awareness and engagement on key issues such as climate change, air quality and radiation protection, water quality, enforcement of environmental legislation and the benefits of a good environment for health and well-being, the role of the EPA becomes ever more pivotal in Irish society.

As Director General of the EPA, her role is to lead and strategically manage the organisation, which has a staff of 400 and a budget of €63m pa. The EPA is widely regarded in Ireland as a highly effective and a highly trusted Agency. Laura has led considerable change in recent years, including the effective amalgamation of another Agency, the Radiological Protection Institute, with the EPA. During her tenure, the EPA has been asked by Government to take on significant new responsibilities, including hosting the Climate Change Advisory Council Secretariat, as a competent authority for Environmental Impact Assessment and the scientific assessment under the Water Framework Directive, requiring a constant assessment of the best use of resources to ensure the Agency delivers on challenging goals.

Laura has been a Director of the EPA since 2004, initially serving as the Agency's Director of Communications and Corporate Services and then as Director of the Office of Climate, Licensing, Research and Resource Use.

Laura is a member of the European Environment Agency Management Board and Bureau and is also the Chair to the Societal Challenge 5 Advisory Group for Horizon 2020. Prior to joining the EPA, she worked in the private sector.

Laura is a graduate chemical engineer of University College Dublin (UCD), holds an MSc from Trinity College, Dublin and is a Chartered Director of the Institute of Directors. In 2016 Laura was awarded the UCD Engineering Graduates Association Distinguished Graduate Award.