

EPA Communiqué

April – May 2017

The Board held its 102nd meeting in Hobart on Monday 10th April 2017, and its 103rd meeting on Monday 8th May.

Special Fee Remission, Venture Minerals Riley Creek Mine

The Board considered this application at a previous meeting and had requested further information before making a decision. The Board noted the additional information provided by Venture Minerals Ltd and agreed to grant a special fee remission for the 2015-2016 permit fee year.

Current Assessments

In addition to its routine monthly consideration of the list of developments under assessment, the Board requested and received a specific briefing on the applications under assessment in the Valley Central Industrial Estate at Westbury.

Meander Valley Council – Valley Central Industrial Precinct

At the April meeting, the Board noted and discussed correspondence from the Meander Valley Council and the Office of the Coordinator-General regarding the assessment of developments in the Industrial Estate. The Board accepted an offer from the Office of the Coordinator-General to review the comparative assessment of proposals by Tyretakers in South Australia and Tasmania.

At the May meeting, the Director provided an update on the assessments that EPA Tasmania is undertaking on behalf of the Board, and the discussions with the Meander Valley Council, the Office of the Coordinator-General and the Northern Tasmania Development Corporation.

Review of the Assessment Process

The Board received advice on the progress of this project, including the finalising of the Terms of Reference and the engagement of a consultant to undertake the review.

Savage River Rehabilitation Project – Strategic Plan and Action Plan

The Board oversees the Savage River Rehabilitation Program and controls the funds to support the Program which are held in the Environment Protection Fund. The Management Committee has prepared an updated 5 year Strategic Plan for the period 2017–2022 and a costed action plan for 2017–2018. The Board examined both plans and raised several issues, including the scope of the strategic plan

(should this include weed management) and requested further information on an item in the budget headed “income generation”.

Notwithstanding these issues the Board supported and formally approved both the Strategic Plan and the Action Plan and its associated budget. The Board noted that the major item of expenditure for 2017–2018 was the project to construct a bund to contain seeps from the Old Tailings Dam and that the contract for these works would need to be referred back to the Board for approval in due course.

Audit of commitments in the 2016 Statement of Intent and Strategic Plan

The Chair presented an audit of the Board’s commitments in the 2016 Statement of Intent (Sol) and the EPA Strategic Plan. Members noted that the commitments may be divided into ongoing and procedural commitments and specific commitments to complete actions within specified timeframes. While there has been satisfactory progress with a number of obligations in the latter group, several require action to ensure that they are met within the timeframe of the Sol.

In particular the following issues were discussed:

- The review of the Assessment Process;
- Board briefing on the Statewide Planning Scheme;
- Community and Stakeholder engagement – need to produce a newsletter once the regulatory scheme for salmon is finalised;
- The Board’s role in the provision of regulatory information to the public;
- The ongoing review of the Fee Remission scheme.

A number of actions were identified and added to the Board’s Action List.

Other matters

The Board received a briefing on current assessments and reviewed the delegations that had been exercised in the previous month. The Director provided a briefing on high profile issues that the EPA has been dealing with which included salmon regulation, disposal of fish waste at Triabunna, and mercury in the water supply of Rosebery.