

EPA Communiqué

August 2016

The Board held its 94th regular meeting on Tuesday 2 August 2016 in Hobart.

Exercise of Delegations relating to Assessments

The Board considered two papers setting out frameworks for the exercise of delegations from the Board to the Director and EPA officers.

The first dealt with how to determine which development proposals are appropriate for assessment under delegation. The process takes account of the Class of the assessment, whether significant representations have been made and whether there are any unusual or difficult issues that may require consideration. The Board approved the framework and requested that it be attached to the delegations and authorisations list.

The second presented a review of the 2013 guidelines for determining when an assessment of a Level 2 activity is not required. The Board supported the guidelines in principle subject to some re-drafting of the section dealing with activities of very limited scale and/or duration.

Periodic review of the Board's delegations and ensuring that there is a common and clear understanding about how these may be exercised is an important element of ensuring an efficient and effective decision-making system.

EPA Strategic Plan

A further draft of the EPA's Strategic Plan was presented to the Board with a request for members to provide comments out of session to the Communications Co-ordinator.

Waste Advisory Committee (WAC)

The Board receive a report from the Chair on the July meeting of the WAC where the Board's proposal to disband the Committee as a formal sub-Committee of the Board was discussed. Members of the WAC had expressed disappointment that the Government's reported decision not to proceed with a waste levy had not been conveyed directly to the Board or the WAC. The WAC requested that the Board seek confirmation from the Minister of this policy position. The Board agreed that the Chair should write to the Minister accordingly.