

EPA Board Communiqué

August 2018

The Board's Meeting number 119 was held on Tuesday 7th August 2018.

Review of Special Fee Remission – Sattler Pastoral

The Board had previously refused an application for a Special Fee Remission from Sattler Pastoral. The company subsequently lodged a request for this decision to be reviewed. The grounds for review included evidence that the applicants had not breached permit conditions (as had previously been thought) and a re-statement of the reasons as to why no production had occurred.

After discussion, the Board agreed that the circumstances regarding the need for, and delay in progressing, an offshore sand loading facility could be regarded as exceptional and, therefore, reversed its decision and granted the special fee remission.

The Board considered that this case highlighted some difficulties in consistently interpreting the fee remission guidelines, in particular regarding operations that have not commenced operations during the first 12 months, and requested EPA Tasmania to review the Guidelines.

Environment Protection Fund

The Board reviewed the financial statement for the Fund for the past 6 months.

Finfish Activity Assessments

The Board received a presentation from EPA Tasmania on the assessment process for finfish activities and the various pathways by which proposals may enter the assessment system.

Request for Sponsorship

The Board considered and agreed to support an application from Tamar NRM to provide sponsorship from the Environment Protection Fund for the Sustainable Living Expo 2018.

Assessment of Biomar Pty Ltd Aquaculture Feed Mill

The Biomar proposal is to construct a facility at Wesley Vale to produce up to 110,000 tonnes per year of feed pellets for the aquaculture industry. There were no representations made in response to the application. The mill will be constructed on the site of a former particle board factory in a largely rural area.

The main issues considered by the Board were:

- Odour

The storage and processing of raw materials, especially fishmeal, has the potential to produce offensive odours. Air emissions will be collected and treated in a biofilter. Although odour levels are modelled as exceeding two odour units at the boundary of the property, the Board considered it unlikely that the plant will cause offensive odours at the nearest residence or the Wesley Vale township. However, a high standard of management will be necessary and an odour management plan and odour surveys will be required.

- Site contamination

The Board noted that there was some soil and groundwater contamination on the site from its previous use and noted the measures proposed to manage this issue.

The Board concluded that the proposal could be managed in an environmentally acceptable manner and, while noting that a high standard of odour management will be required, advised the Latrobe Council that it could proceed.

Special Fee Remission – Shree Minerals

An application from Shree Minerals Ltd for Special Fee Remissions for its Nelson Bay River Mine for the years 2015-16 and 2016 -17 was considered. The Board noted that there remained non-compliances with the conditions of the permit and that, although the mine remains under care and maintenance, considerable regulatory effort had been required by the EPA, and that the application for 2015-16 was well out of time. Taking these matters into account, the Board denied both applications.

Implementation Plan – Assessment Process Review

The Board discussed and approved, subject to a number of changes, the draft Plan for implementing the recommendations of the Review of the Level 2 assessment process. Based on the Plan and the Board's views, EPA Tasmania will prepare a Consultation Package for consideration at the September meeting.