

EPA Communique

January - February 2016

No EPA Board meeting was held in January 2016. A regular meeting was held on 2 February and a half day Strategic Planning meeting was held on 3 February 2016.

Assessment of Clay Quarry Expansion, Carrick

The Board concluded its assessment of the proposal by Oliver Diprose for a clay quarry upgrade at 1521 Illawarra Rd, Carrick. The proposal was to expand the current clay quarry to allow extraction of up to 20,000 cubic metres of clay per year. In making its assessment, the Board considered the potential noise emissions and dust impacts on nearby residents, and other issues raised in the representation received during the period of public consultation, which indicated a history of noise complaints and also concern about the visual impact of the quarry.

The Board concluded the quarry could be developed and managed in an environmentally sustainable and acceptable manner, with certain conditions relating to the management of the dust and noise impacts. The Board resolved to notify the Council in accordance with the EMPCA that the conditions and restrictions detailed in the Environmental Assessment Report must be contained in any permit subsequently issued by the Council.

Assessment of Rosebery Tailings Dam Proposal by MMG Australia

The Board concluded its assessment of a proposal by MMG Australia Ltd to redevelop a group of former tailings dams in South Rosebery. The Company proposes to dispose of tailings from its Rosebery mine when the existing tailings dam at Bobadil reaches capacity sometime in 2017. The redevelopment involves raising the walls of the former dams and constructing a new embankment. Various environmental issues were considered by the Board, particularly dust and noise impacts on residents of Rosebery during the construction period, and the potential impact on water quality in the Stitt River.

The Board concluded the activity could be developed and managed in an environmentally sustainable and acceptable manner, with certain conditions which must be included in any permit subsequently granted by the West Coast Council. In making its assessment, the Board considered the environmental issues raised in the five public representations received during the period of public consultation, which largely centred on dust and noise impacts. The conditions imposed by the EPA require the Company to monitor dust and noise levels, and to report these to the EPA during both the construction and operational phases. The Company must also submit a comprehensive environmental management plan for the construction works for approval by the EPA, providing details of measures to minimise dust and noise impact on Rosebery residents. Work on Sundays and public holidays are prohibited and further conditions have been imposed to protect and improve the water quality in the Stitt River, including permanent coverage of the tailings by water to reduce the generation of acid drainage and minimise dust blow-off from the site.

The Board resolved to notify the West Coast Council regarding the Environmental Assessment Report and outline the reasons for the conditions and restrictions detailed within the Report.

Assessment of Stage 1 Landfill Leachate Treatment Wetland Proposal by Burnie City Council

The Board concluded its assessment of a proposed landfill leachate treatment facility, located at the Burnie Waste Management Centre, Mooreville Road, Burnie. The proposal by Burnie City Council was to develop a wetland treatment facility consisting of a series of ponds, located on top of the landfill site, to treat up to 600 kL/day of leachate at its waste management centre. The issue of placing a wetland on top of a landfill and potential for settlement was discussed by the Board and it was considered that the matter had been adequately taken into account in the design of the treatment system. Various environmental issues were considered in the Board's assessment, particularly the potential for water quality impacts on local creek systems. The Board specifically addressed the concerns raised in the public representation, which was received during the period of public consultation, regarding the discharge of effluent to the creek systems.

The Board concluded the facility could be developed and managed in an environmentally sustainable and acceptable manner, with certain conditions. It issued an Environment Protection Notice which contained these conditions, including an emission limit at the point of effluent discharge from the site and a requirement for the Council to regularly monitor the effluent and water quality of the downstream environment. Conditions were also included for contingency measures, including a requirement to recirculate effluent back through the treatment facility, and to maintain a connection to sewer for discharge into the sewer network, if required.

EPA Strategic Planning Project Plan

The Board received the draft EPA Strategic Planning Project Plan, which provided an outline the combined planning session for the EPA Board and the EPA Division management group planned for Wednesday 3 February 2016. It agreed to adopt the process for planning and consultation outlined in the Plan, including the identified outcomes of the combined planning meeting for the following day.