

EPA Board Communiqué

January 2020

Regular Meeting 135, Tuesday 29 January

Register of Instruments

At its last meeting the Board requested that the Registers of Instruments it is required to keep under s. 22 of EMPCA be made available on the EPA website. The Board was presented with the format of material to be placed on the web and advised that some historic information was not available electronically, but would be sourced from archived files if requested. The Board was satisfied with this approach.

Review of Information Sessions

The Board approved a questionnaire to be sent to the participants from information sessions on changes to the assessment process, and requested a briefing on the feedback.

Template for providing the Board with information on Environmental Licence applicants

When assessing applications for an Environmental Licence, the Board must satisfy itself that it should not refuse the Licence for one of the reasons set out in s. 42L of EMPCA. The Board approved the template to inform this decision for inclusion in briefings on future assessments of Environmental Licences.

Environment Protection Fund 6 monthly update

The Board noted the update on the balance and transactions on the Environment Protection Fund during the past 6 months.

Assessment of Permit Application – Williams Quarry, Campania.

This is a small quarry at Campania that has been before the Board on several occasions, and has been subject to appeals. The owner wishes to make several relatively small changes to the way the quarry is operated, without intensifying its use. However, given the history of the quarry, the only way to deal with the proposed changes was via a new permit application. There were two representations opposing the application and the Southern Midlands Council provided detailed comments.

The Board considered whether the more flexible arrangements for crushing, the introduction of screening and a new access road would be likely to have any detrimental environmental impacts on surrounding land uses. The Board noted that since the last time it considered this quarry, a permit had been granted to allow adjacent land to be developed for a Buddhist Park, but that the Planning Commission had not found this to be conflicting with the currently permitted quarrying operation. The Board considered the matters raised in representations and

Council's request that the attenuation zone currently specified in the planning scheme not be compromised.

Noting that no increase in production was applied for, the Board concluded that under the new arrangements the quarry operation could still comply with the current noise and air emission limits and the attenuation zone applied by the Council. Therefore, the Board approved the application subject to conditions.

Fee Remissions

The Board considered applications for special fee remissions from Australian Bauxite in relation to its mine at Campbell Town and King Island Scheelite for its mine at Grassy. The bauxite mine is currently under care and maintenance, while the scheelite mine has not reopened since a new permit was granted in 2006. The Board granted special fee remissions for both operations.

Other Matters

The Board also approved a revised form for members to use to disclosing interests, discussed potential sites and developments to visit on a field trip during the first half of the year and the agenda for a Strategic Issues Workshop in April.
