

# **EPA Board Communiqué**

**July 2019**

*Regular Meeting 128, Tuesday 2 July 2019*

## **Extractive Industry Environmental Effects Report Guidelines**

The assessment of small to medium size quarries and extractive pits is a significant workload for EPA Tasmania. A review of the assessment process in 2017 recommended that the Board develop a simpler and more streamlined assessment process for low-risk quarries. This would benefit both proponents and EPA Tasmania and be consistent with the Board's risk-based approach to assessment.

A draft guideline for a simpler Environmental Effects Report (EER) for low risk quarries and extractive pits was considered by the Board at its Strategic Workshop in April 2019. Since then the draft guideline has been provided for comment to the Cement, Concrete and Aggregates Association (CCAA), the industry body for the operators of quarries and extractive pits. The CCA raised a small number of issues, mainly relating to details and wording rather than the overall structure and thrust of the guideline. The Board considered these and supported a number of small amendments to the guidelines to address five of the issues raised.

The Board approved the amended document for immediate use and requested a report on the impact that the revised guidelines have had after 12 months in use.

## **Director's Briefing**

The Director briefed the Board on the release of the Government's draft Waste Action Plan and foreshadowed a more detailed briefing at the August Board meeting. He also drew to the Board's attention that new Regulations to manage smoke had been made and provided an update on several high-profile assessments that are in progress.