

EPA Communiqué

June 2017

The Board held its 104th meeting in Hobart on Friday 9th June 2017.

Assessment of Ten Star Mining Pty Ltd – Granville Harbour Tin Mine upgrade

Ten Star Mining Pty Ltd (TSM) proposes to intensify the use of an existing level one open cut tin mine and associated processing facility, both located off Heemskirk Rd, Zeehan. TSM anticipates extracting up to 40,000 tonnes of ore over a period of about 18–24 months. Ore will be extracted by drill and blast, then crushed and transported to the processing plant to produce tin concentrate. The site, like many on the west coast, has legacy issues from previous mining. The proposal also includes the development of a new tailings storage facility at the processing plant.

The main issues considered by the Board were:

- discharges that may affect water quality
- the management of waste rock so as to avoid the creation of future acid drainage, and
- mine rehabilitation at the completion of the relatively short life of the mine.

The Board also discussed the adequacy of the bond, sought assurance that it was feasible to return the waste rock to the void, and whether monitoring data should be reported back to the EPA. The Board also considered the comments made by the proponent on the proposed draft permit conditions. There were no representations. The Board requested a number of changes to the draft permit conditions and, subject to these, concluded that the activity could be operated in an environmentally acceptable manner provided that the Board's conditions are complied with.

Special Fee Remission – King Island Scheelite

The Board considered the application and granted a partial special fee remission to King Island Scheelite.

Biomass limits and collection of waste from salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour

The Director provided the Board with a detailed briefing on the current situation with salmon farming in Macquarie Harbour. While he has set the biomass limit at 12,000 tpa the current year class of fish in the harbour will cause this to be exceeded as the fish grow. All operators were offered the option of providing a proposal for waste capture to offset any exceedance of their biomass limit. Tassal has been the only company to take this up and has put forward a proposal to collect waste from beneath the salmon pens and remove this to a suitable disposal facility.

The Director advised that he had decided not to call the waste collection proposal in for assessment by the Board as it would be unlikely that the assessment could be completed before the waste collection system was required or, indeed, by the time when it is no longer required as it is viewed only as a short term solution for this year class of fish. The Board was provided with an early draft of an EPN that the Director would issue to manage the waste collection and disposal and members were invited to provide comments on this out of session. The Board also discussed a letter that had been sent to the Chair by Mrs Bender of Huon Aquaculture and agreed on a response.

Compliance Audit Process

The Board received a presentation on the compliance audit process being implemented by EPA Tasmania.

Other Matters

The Board received an update on the progress of the project to review the assessment process, noted the responses to its queries about the Savage River Remediation Program Strategic Plan, and received an update on the discussions about the Valley Central Industrial Estate assessments.