

EPA Board Communiqué

June 2019

Regular Meeting 127, Tuesday 28 May 2019

LGAT Project Proposal – EHO Workforce Development Planning Project

The Board considered a request from the Local Government Association of Tasmania (LGAT) to contribute to the funding of their Environmental Health Officer (EHO) Workforce Development Planning Project. The Board noted that

- EHO's play an important role in the environmental management system established by the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act*; and
- Other parties are contributing to funding the project.

The Board agreed that the proposed use of funds from the Environment Protection Fund (EPF) is consistent with the criteria in the Board's *Policy on Grants from the EPF* and resolved to approve funding of \$10,000.

Sattler Pastoral, Anderson Bay Sand Mine – 2017-18 Special Fee Remission

This fee remission was submitted on the basis that the permitted production level has not been reached due to delays in gaining approval for port facilities in Sydney. Following an audit of the activity, a number of minor non-compliances were identified. The Board agreed to grant the fee remission only after these had been rectified and delegated the decision to grant the fee remission to the Director once he is satisfied that the non-compliances have been satisfactorily addressed.

Tasmanian Irrigation, Ben Bullen Quarry – 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 Special Fee Remissions

Tasmanian Irrigation was granted a permit for a quarry to extract material to build the Camden Rivulet Dam which is part of the Scottsdale irrigation scheme. The quarry was not operated as sufficient suitable material was sourced from the dam footprint. The Board noted that while the applications for 2018-19 and 2019-20 complied with the Board's guidelines for fee remissions, the 2017-18 did not. However, as the Board has previously flagged a review of the fee remission guidelines, it agreed that if the remission for 2017 -18 fits within the structure of the revised guidelines, it would be reconsidered. The Board resolved to grant a 90% fee remission for 2018-19 and 2019-20 and reject the application for 2017-18 while advising Tasmanian Irrigation that this may be reconsidered in the future.

Potential Assessment of the proposed Longford Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade

The Board received a briefing on TasWater's proposal to build a new wastewater treatment plant at Longford. TasWater has suggested that the new plant will be ancillary to the current plant, notwithstanding that it will use new technology. While the Board recognised the need to expedite construction of a new plant to alleviate odour problems emanating from the current lagoon-based system, it reached a view that the new plant should not be considered ancillary to the current plant and should be subject to assessment by the Board. The Board noted that the decision as to whether the new plant is ancillary would rest with the Northern Midlands Council.

Delivery of AELERT Environmental Auditing Training to Local Government

The Board received a briefing on the delivery of this training which was supported by the Board through funding from the Environment Protection Fund. The Board noted the results of a survey of participants and the success of the training from the perspective of those who attended, but also the barriers to attracting Environmental Health Officers to the course.
