

EPA Board Communiqué

June 2020

Regular Meeting 138, Tuesday 9 June 2020

Eagle research

At the March meeting the Board received a presentation on a research project to provide better information about the movements of eagles near windfarms and more generally across the State. The outcomes from this project will help provide better assessments of the risks of windfarms to eagles and make an important contribution to allowing a more strategic approach to the assessment of new windfarm proposals. The Board noted that the EPA has been promoting funding of the project and considered whether it would be suitable for funding from the Environment Protection Fund. The Board asked EPA Tasmania to liaise with the project managers to develop a funding proposal for consideration.

Review of EPA Board – EPA Tasmania Protocols.

The protocols governing the relationship between the Board and the support it receives from EPA Tasmania were reviewed and, with several minor amendments, approved.

Tasmanian Biosolid Reuse Guidelines 2020

The *Tasmanian Biosolid Reuse Guidelines*, which were first published in 1999, have undergone an extensive review extending over a number of years. EPA Tasmania provided the Board with an overview of the revised guidelines and the process undertaken to update them. The Board noted that while the basic management practices did not require updating, the revised guidelines aim to make the requirements clearer and easier to understand. The Board discussed:

- How the accumulation of contaminants in soils is addressed;
- Restrictions on the use of biosolids for certain crops and the different requirements of end-users;
- The apparent contradiction between the document being termed “guidelines” and the mandatory language used in the text which suggests that the prescriptions are requirements rather than guidelines. EPA Tasmania explained that this is because the guidelines are used in conjunction with an Approved Management Method for these wastes.
- Dealing with new contaminants, such as PFAS.

The Board approved the guidelines subject to some amendments to address these issues.
