

## **EPA Communique**

### **June-July 2016**

*The Board held a regular meeting on Tuesday 21 June in Hobart and Monday 11 July, both in Hobart.*

#### **Sponsorship Requests**

The Board sponsors a select number of events and programs each year with funding provided through the Environment Protection Fund (EPF). Several requests for funding were received by the Board and discussed at the June meeting, including for the Sustainable Living Festival in November 2016 and the National Environmental Health Australia Conference in Hobart; and a request to sponsor the Kids4Kids Sustainability Conferences 2016 was discussed at the July meeting.

The Board approved the allocation of \$1,100 for the Sustainable Living Festival in 2016. This was on the basis that such a sponsorship would help raise awareness of the EPA and could be used to promote the EPA Sustainability Award and the EPA Sustainability in Practice initiative. The Board approved the sponsorship of a Bronze package at a cost of \$3,300 of the Environmental Health Australia 41<sup>st</sup> National Conference to be held in Hobart on 31<sup>st</sup> October to 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016.

The Board approved the sponsorship for the Kids4Kids Sustainability Conferences 2016, believing in the positive benefits of providing education to young students. The money is to be used to cover bus transport to assist as many students as possible to be able to attend the conferences. The EPA has allocated \$2,000 per annum for the next three years to support the conferences in the South and a further \$2,000 per annum for conferences in the North and North West.

The Board discussed the need to take a strategic approach to sponsorship in order to respond effectively to the number of requests for sponsorship it is likely to receive throughout the year. The Board requested a briefing paper to outline the expected sponsorship for the next financial year and the recommended budget, based on the projected funds incoming to the EPF.

#### **EPA Strategic Planning Project Update**

The Board discussed the report on the staff consultation process outlined in the notes from meetings and written feedback. The draft strategic plan was circulated to Board Members via email on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Board members were supportive of the plan and its structure, and a number of suggestions were discussed. It was decided that the Strategic Plan should represent the activities and directions of EPA Tasmania (i.e. the Board, Director and Division) rather than the EPA Board only.

## **Draft EPA Board Statement of Expectation**

The Board reviewed the draft Statement of Expectation (SoE) provided by the Minister on 27 June 2016, and noted changes from the previous SoE. In particular the Board discussed the environmental regulation of the salmonid industry, the Government's policy on climate change, the State-wide Planning Scheme and its likely impact on the assessment process, the future provision of regulatory data, and a review of the fee remissions. The Board resolved to note the changes and seek clarification on several matters. This included the specific request for a briefing about the State-wide Planning Scheme and how this may impact upon the Board's role in assessing proposals.

## **EPA Sustainability Award – Wording, promotion and judging**

The Board noted the promotion and advertising being undertaken to raise awareness of the EPA Sustainability Award, including the availability of the electronic flyer and brochures. The Board considered the roles and responsibilities of the Expert and Sponsor judges for the EPA Sustainability Award and selection of suitable persons for these positions. It approved the appointment of Warren Jones as the Sponsor judge again this year, and the selection of a suitable person from the EPA Division for the position of Expert judge. The judging process will be undertaken in October and the winner and finalists announced in November.

## **Winding up of the Waste Advisory Committee**

The Board considered the information provided on the future of the Waste Advisory Committee, and resolved to inform the Committee Members of the EPA Board's intention to dissolve the Waste Advisory Committee meeting at its meeting in July 2016.