

EPA Communique

March 2016

The Board held a regular meeting on 3 March and an out of session teleconference meeting on 11 March 2016 to determine the assessment for supplementary power generation.

Assessment of Williams' Quarry, Campania

The Board concluded its assessment of a proposed quarry and crushing operation proposed by CA & SM Williams at 1356 Tea Tree Road, Campania. The proposal is to increase the production capacity of the existing quarry located on the Williams' property at Campania on a mining lease held by Mr Williams. The quarry currently operates under a level 1 permit granted by Southern Midlands Council and is permitted to produce up to 5000 cubic meters per year. The proposal is to increase production to 10,000 cubic metres per year and to introduce the crushing of material at the quarry.

The Board concluded the proposed quarry operation could be developed and managed in an environmentally sustainable and acceptable manner, with certain conditions, which must be included in any permit subsequently granted by the Council. Of the 23 public representations received during the period of public consultation, 15 were in favour of the quarry while the remainder raised issues relevant to the Board's assessment. These related mainly to the potential for environmental nuisance due to quarry operations and cartage vehicles, with a particular concern being noise impact from the crushing plant. The EPA's conditions to address these issues include restricting the hours of quarry operations and cartage vehicle movements, and limiting the number of vehicle movements per day which will be permitted to operate for up to five days each year. The EPA also required that a screening bund be established and maintained around the quarry, which would limit noise and dust from the crushing plant and operations. The Board determined that it must consider the potential environmental impacts for permissible uses under the current zoning, enabling Council to consider the potential social and economic impacts in its assessment of the proposal.

Determination Regarding Assessment of Supplementary Diesel Generation at Catagunya Power Station

The Board concluded its determination of whether an assessment was required for the proposal by Hydro Tasmania for supplementary diesel power generation at Catagunya Power State. The meeting discussed the project proposal and in particular the findings of the air quality assessment report, noting the modelling prediction that the Air EEP schedule 2 design criteria for NO₂ and SO₂ would be exceeded.

The Board concluded that the proposal has the potential to result in serious or material environmental harm and that it requires assessment under the EMPCA. The Board then discussed what class of assessment was appropriate for the proposal

and determined it must be 2B, as would be determined under the normal EPA processes. The Board also agreed that the balance of the generator proposals could be dealt with as per the normal EPA process (eg classing and issue of guidelines under delegation by the Director) and requested that the Director bring any to the Board that he considered necessary.

Community Achievement Awards 2016 – EPA sponsorship proposal

The Board noted the *Community Achievement Awards 2015 End of Year Report* from Awards Australia and endorsed the sponsorship proposal provided by Awards Australia for naming rights category '*EPA Sustainability Award*' in the 2016 Community Achievement Awards. The category wording and selection criteria for submissions under the EPA Sustainability Award will be reviewed by the Board ahead of the submission period opening for 2016 nominations.

Determination Regarding Assessment of Temporary Operation of a Pre-mix Bitumen Plant, Long Hill Quarry, Sassafras

The Board noted it's out of session determination (via email in February) that an assessment was not required for the proposal by Hazell Bros. Group Pty Ltd for the temporary operation of a pre-mix bitumen plant at Sassafras. The Board decided that the proposed pre-mix bitumen production activity will not result in serious or material environmental harm if the activity is carried out in a manner consistent with the Notice of Intent and agreed that an assessment of the proposal under EMPCA was not required. The Board sought to emphasise to the proponent that the decision not to require assessment is subject to the proposed works being carried out in a manner consistent with the Notice of Intent and contingent on the activity being carried out for not more than 8 weeks as specified in the Notice of Intent.

EPA Strategic Planning Project Update

A draft of the notes taken at the combined EPA Board and EPA Division Management Strategic Planning Session (held on 3 February 2016) and the priorities identified from that session were circulated to the Board members. Feedback on the priorities identified was sought from Board members ahead of the EPA Division Staff Consultation Workshop planned for April.

Savage River Rehabilitation Project Strategic Planning

A briefing paper outlining the key strategic planning points was provided to the Board in response to a previous request in September 2015 that Action 20 of the 2015 SRRP Strategic Plan be prioritised (contingency planning for mine closure). A scenario planning workshop with Grange Resources was held during February 2016, which included contingency planning for mine closure. It was noted that should the mine cease operating, a noticeable impact within 1-2 weeks of cessation would be seen (to the acid/alkaline balance), with the main risk areas being the Old Tailings Dam (OTD) and the South Lens. Also noted were a number of unknowns, such as the neutralising capacity of South Lens.

A number of actions for immediate commencement were identified at the workshop including Grange Resources to undertake scoping for reconfiguration of the lime dosing plant to treat the OTD seeps at their source and for further investigation of South Lens' neutralising capacity.