

# EPA Communiqué

**March 2017**

*The Board held its 101<sup>st</sup> regular meeting on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March in Hobart.*

## **Review of the Annual Fee Remission Scheme**

Board members considered and discussed the issues raised in a paper that reviewed the objectives of this scheme and an assessment of its effectiveness. The Board supported the conclusion that the current scheme is not realising its objectives and requested that the Division provide a further paper analysing possible alternatives for modifying or replacing the scheme.

## **Assessment of Gadtech Materials Pty Ltd, Quarry Expansion, Dromedary**

Gadtech Materials operates a Level 1 quarry (maximum production 5000m<sup>3</sup>/a) at Dromedary in south- east Tasmania. The application is to increase production to 20,000 m<sup>3</sup>/a, involving blasting, and crushing of the product. The land on which the quarry is located was recently re-zoned for resource extraction, but is surrounded by land zoned as Environmental Living.

The Board:

- Discussed the impact of noise on existing and approved residences and concluded that the activity could be operated so as to meet reasonable noise limits at these sites. However, it would be unreasonable to require the quarry to meet residential noise criteria at the boundary of the large undeveloped Environmental Living blocks where the building envelopes are unknown. The impact of the quarry on future use and development on these blocks is best considered in the planning framework.
- Requested amendments to the draft permit conditions to better manage the impacts from drilling.
- Requested further advice from the Noise Specialist to resolve a number of representations that criticised the noise assessment.
- Considered a number of comments by the proponent's consultant on the proposed limitations on noise and in relation to natural values
- Considered the water quality issues raised by Council.

The Board concluded that, subject to several amendments to the draft permit conditions and the Environmental Assessment Report, the quarry could be managed in an environmentally acceptable manner.

## **Western Tiers Proteins and the Air EPP**

The Board received a briefing on this development which is currently in the assessment process. The main issue that has arisen is the potential for odour to

impact other industries in the industrial zone and what odour criteria should apply at the boundary of the land. The Board agreed on the approach that should be taken to interpreting the provisions of the Environment Protection Policy on Air Quality in these circumstances and requested the Division to advise the proponent accordingly.

### **EPA Sustainability Award Sponsorship**

The Board agreed to continue its participation in the Community Achievement Awards and retain its sponsorship of the EPA Sustainability Award in 2017.

### **Other matters**

The Board received an update on the status of the Environment Protection Fund and agreed to defer its annual review of the DPEMP Guidelines until the review of the Assessment Process is complete. The Director's briefing covered regulation of the salmon industry and two complaints that have been received by the Office of the Coordinator-General in relation to the assessment of projects in the Valley Central Industrial Estate.