

# **EPA Board Communiqué**

**March 2019**

*Regular Meeting 124, Thursday 7 March 2019*

## **Draft Information Management Policy**

The Board reviewed a draft policy on how information for the Board (agendas etc) should be handled and disposed of. The Board discussed issues such as the length of time it may be desirable/necessary for members to retain various kinds of information. The Board requested several amendments to the draft policy to be considered at a subsequent meeting.

## **Draft Conflict of Interest Policy**

The Board considered the draft Conflict of Interest Policy. The policy distinguishes between the different categories of conflict of interest and proposed that a form be filled out on every occasion that a conflict or possible conflict was declared. The Board supported most of the policy but considered that recording in the minutes the discussion and outcome regarding a potential conflict sufficient. An amended policy will be considered at a subsequent meeting.

## **Amended Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) template**

The Board supported the proposed changes in the EAR template which provided more detailed information on what sections of EMPCA are being met with each milestone. The Board discussed the adequacy of the current approach to demonstrating that the Sustainable Development Objectives have been met and agreed to consider this further at the Strategic Issues Workshop.

## **Revised Environmental Effects Report and Environmental Impact Statement Guidelines**

The Guidelines issued to proponents to guide the preparation of documentation to support development applications have been revised to implement the recommendations of the Assessment Review Report. The Board noted that comments had been requested from referral agencies and consultants, but little feedback had been received. The Board noted that the major changes in the Guidelines were to emphasise a risk-based approach to dealing with issues and the exclusion of issues not within the Board's scope. The Board also discussed when the new guidelines should take effect. The Board approved the revised guidelines for use subject to several small amendments.

### **Special Fee Remission**

The Board considered and granted a special fee remission to King Island Scheelite on the basis that no production had occurred.

### **Director's Briefing**

The Director briefed the Board on a number of operational issues, including enforcement action, and the potential involvement of the EPA in a second power interconnector across Bass Strait.