

Regular Meeting 145, 2 March 2021

Initial Meeting New Board

This was the initial meeting of the newly appointed EPA Board. The members of the Board are Andrew Paul (Chair), Belinda Hazell (Deputy Chair), Dr Ian Cresswell (Member), Amanda Locatelli (Member), Wes Ford (EPA Director), Mark Gifford (Deputy Member).

The Board received briefings from Senior EPA Tasmania staff on several current matters, including assessments in progress, the current assessment caseload and other matters expected to come before the Board in the coming year. Such matters included a detailed briefing on the Savage River Rehabilitation Project (SRRP) and an extensive briefing on the proposed expansion of the Savage River Mine.

With the proposed Savage River Mine expansion to come before the Board at their next regular meeting, the Board requested that a site inspection of the Savage River Mine be undertaken by the Board prior to their consideration of this proposal. The purpose of the visit was to give the Board a better understanding of the complexity and range of matters to be considered. A site visit was subsequently undertaken on 29 March 2021.

Delegations

The Board, as a procedural matter, remade a range of delegations and authorisations to Senior Office holders within EPA Tasmania.

Delegations generally made were in accordance with Sections 16(1), 27(7), 27F(5), 42Z(1) and 42ZJ of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* and Sections 60R(4) and 61 of the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993*.

Assessment - Ornatas Pty Ltd – Pilot Scale Lobster Hatchery, Tarooma

This proposal is to establish a small-scale hatchery for rock lobsters at the existing Institute of Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) aquaculture research facility at Tarooma. The Board noted that there had been community concern over the rezoning of some land to house the hatchery and the potential loss of swift parrot habitat. While this was largely resolved during the re-zoning process, there were several representations in relation to the proposal with the key issues being the impact on swift parrots and noise. The Board noted advice from the Conservation and Assessment Section of DPIPW and the Noise Specialist on these matters. Overall, the Board concluded that, given the very small scale of the operation, the impacts of the development were likely to be minor.

The Board resolved to notify the Kingborough Council that the development could proceed subject to the Board's conditions.

Regular Meeting 146 (30 March 2021) and Out of Session Meeting 147 (22 April 2021)

Savage River Mine, Centre Pit Expansion – Grange Resources (Tasmania) Pty Ltd

The Board received a comprehensive and detailed Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) in relation to the proposed Centre Pit expansion of the Savage River Mine.

The key Issues considered by the Board included:

- Dewatering of Centre Pit South;
- Groundwater and surface water management: and
- Mine waste management.

There were no public representations received regarding the proposed development.

The expansion of Centre Pit will produce 31Mt of ore, and 255Mt of waste, of which 106Mt is classified as potentially acid forming.

The proposed expansion of the mine did not trigger requirements under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* and hence is controlled by the issue of an Environmental Protection Notice (EPN).

Significant matters addressed under the EPN included a strict water quality monitoring regime, particularly in regard to discharge to the Savage River, to ensure that river water quality is not degraded and the management of waste rock such that Potentially Acid Forming (PAF) material is safely and sustainably encapsulated in clay capping to prevent any future likelihood of environmental contamination from the PAF waste.

The Board concluded that the proposed development could be managed in an environmentally sustainable and acceptable manner and resolved to:

1. Adopt the Environmental Assessment Report.
2. Cause the Director, Environment Protection Authority, in accordance with section 27(6)(a)(i) of the EMPC Act, to issue and serve on Grange Resources (Tasmania) Pty Ltd Environment Protection Notice number 10364/1.
3. Cause the Director, Environment Protection Authority, in accordance with section 27(6)(a)(i) of the EMPC Act, to issue and serve on Grange Resources (Tasmania) Pty Ltd a copy of the Environmental Assessment Report to outline the reasons for the conditions and restrictions in Environment Protection Notice 10364/1.

Old Tailings Dam – Cobalt Study Project

The Board received a report in relation to a preliminary research project to investigate the Cobalt content of tailings in the Old Tailings Dam (OTD) at the Savage River Mine and to ascertain whether there is a case for further research into the feasibility of mining the OTD. This research proposal was previously presented to the Board in 2019. The project is part of the Savage River Rehabilitation Project which commenced in 2014 under the terms of the Goldamere Agreement.

The Board resolved to sign the contract for the OTD Cobalt study 2021-2022.
