

# Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Board Communiqué

Meeting 116 Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2018

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## **Integrity Commission Workshop**

The Integrity Commission has developed a package of training on ethics for Tasmanian State Boards and Committees. The EPA Board undertook the core unit of this training with the assistance of a staff member from the Integrity Commission and agreed on which of the optional units it would work through at a future meeting or meetings.

## **Policy on natural values surveys post-approval**

The Board sometimes considers applications for staged developments that will involve vegetation clearance some years (e.g. 10) after initial assessment. Although a natural values survey may have been carried out as part of the application, during the intervening time the species composition of the vegetation may change, as may the conservation status of individual species of plants or animals. The Board requested EPA Tasmania, in consultation with the Policy and Conservation Branch of DPIPWE, to develop a policy to guide when it may be appropriate to require a further natural values survey prior to vegetation clearance post-approval.

The Board discussed the draft policy and requested several small changes to be made for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

## **Provision of Regulatory Information to the public**

One element of the Minister's current Statement of Expectation is for the Board to work with the Director to improve the availability of regulatory information to the public. The Board considered a project summary of the work being carried out by EPA Tasmania. The main focus of the current work is to show Level 2 activities regulated by the EPA on ListMap and to enable the contents of Environment Protection Notices (EPNs) issued for each activity to be downloaded. The project is well advanced and will add value to the Board's legislated requirement to maintain a register of EPNs.

The Board noted the status of the project and discussed other options for making regulatory information more readily available. EPA Tasmania was asked to put together a strategy paper for the project for consideration at a future meeting.

## **Annual Review of EPA Board protocols**

The Board has developed a number of protocols to govern its interaction with EPA Tasmania staff and the conduct of its business. These are reviewed annually or as required. The Board requested small changes to two of the protocols which were otherwise considered satisfactory and appropriate.

## **Review of Strategic Plan (2016- 2019) commitments.**

The Board undertakes periodic reviews of the commitments set out in both the Statement of Intent and Strategic Plan.

The Board systematically worked through the elements of the Strategic Plan and noted the status and progress that had been made with each element. Elements that are behind schedule were specifically

identified and, where necessary and possible, actions necessary to progress these agreed. The Board noted that the demands on EPA Tasmania staff to service the fruit fly response had significantly slowed progress on a number of elements of the Plan.

### **Assessment. Lords Quarry upgrade – Huon Valley Council**

The Board considered the draft Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) on the application by Huon Valley Council to intensify the use of the existing Lords Quarry off Peverata Road at Upper Woodstock. Material extracted from the quarry will be crushed and screened. The Board also considered the ten public representations that were made in relation to the application. The main issues raised were noise, dust, traffic and the control of weeds and disease.

The Board discussed

- The washdown requirements for vehicles using the site;
- Natural values and whether future surveys should be required prior to work commencing on a later stage of the quarry;
- The issues raised by representors and specifically which traffic issues should be considered by the Board and which by Council.

The Board resolved to adopt the EAR and its recommendation that the proposal could proceed subject to conditions, subject to minor amendments and an additional condition regarding natural values, and notify the Huon Valley Council (as the planning authority) of its decision.

### **Sponsorship of Environmental Health Association State Conference 2018**

The Board approved sponsorship of the EHA Conference at the level of “Conference Sponsor” (\$1,500) from the Environment Protection Fund.

### **Savage River Rehabilitation Project – Budget Update**

The Board received and noted a budget update for the SRRP. The update advised that there will be a significant underspend on some elements of the 2017 – 2018 budget and flagged that there are likely to be significant additional costs in the 2018-2019 budget to be considered later in the year.

### **Site Visit and Out of Session Meeting**

The Board reviewed the outcomes of its site visit to aquaculture facilities on the 26<sup>th</sup> of April and noted the outcome of its electronic out-of-session meeting to approve revised *Guidelines on determining when an assessment is not required*.

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