

# EPA Board Communiqué

## November 2020

### Regular Meeting 143, Tuesday 3 November



#### Review of Special Fee Remission Policy

The Board previously requested a review of its Special Fee Remission policy, particularly the current policy provisions that preclude providing any fee remission in the first year after a permit is issued. The briefing paper outlined a number of fixed costs that occur during the first year of operations, including a handover from the assessment officer to the regulatory officer and a number of administrative tasks. For larger operations one or more plans may be required in the first year prior to operations commencing.

The Board discussed the issues and the reasons that the review had been requested. The Board agreed to maintain the current policy but requested that a checklist be provided in briefing papers for special fee remissions. The Board also noted that it is not bound by the policy if unusual circumstances suggest that it would be appropriate to provide some fee remission in the first year.

#### Regulatory Framework for the sustainable discharge of treated wastewater from level 2 WWTPs

The main purpose of this Regulatory Framework is to encourage the re-use of treated wastewater from treatment plants by removing potential barriers and setting clear end-points for what the EPA considers ongoing sustainable treatment.

The Board discussed the Framework, including:

- the consultation that had been undertaken and feedback received
- whether an external peer review was warranted
- that re-use needs to be sustainable and that this could receive more emphasis in the Framework.

The Board approved the Framework subject to the addition of a preamble regarding the sustainability of re-use.

#### Special Fee Remissions

The Board approved Special Fee Remissions for an inert waste disposal site and a coal mine at Fingal. The waste disposal site operated by Graymount Pty Ltd is an integral part of a larger operation for which an annual fee is paid, and the Hardrock Coal Mining's coal mine has not commenced operation.

#### Environmental Guidelines for TasNetworks North West Transmission Line Upgrade

Under the *Major Infrastructure Development Approvals Act 1999* the Board is required to provide guidelines for the environmental assessment of the North West transmission line upgrade, although the assessment will most likely be undertaken by the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC). The Board noted responses from the Conservation Assessment Section (CAS) and office of the Director of Public Health which had arrived after the agenda papers were distributed. EPA Tasmania proposed that the draft guidelines be updated to reflect the language used by CAS and the comments from Public Health, including the assessment of electro-magnetic fields.

The Board approved the updated guidelines for transmission to the TPC.

#### Assessment – Gadtech Materials Pty Ltd – Nichols Road Quarry Upgrade, Nubeena

This proposal is to change the operating hours, allow blasting without specific permission and mechanised crushing and screening at an existing small quarry just outside Nubeena. No change in the level of production is proposed. There were 3 representations made in relation to the application. The key issues identified were noise and air emissions from blasting and crushing, which were also the main issues raised in representations.

The Board discussed:

- the need for the proponent to control dust on Nichols Rd which, although a public road, is predominantly used to transport material from the quarry
- the results of blast monitoring and whether it is possible to carry out small blasts at this site while meeting accepted standards for noise and vibration
- the small scale of the quarry and that blasting is not likely to be frequent
- whether the changes in operating hours requested are likely to represent a significant increased risk to the Tasmanian devil, and
- comments on the draft conditions by the proponent.

Having considered the matters raised in representations the Board resolved to notify the Tasman Council that the application could be approved although care will need to be undertaken with blasting. Monitoring of blasts and noise emissions under the changed conditions will be required.

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