

EPA Communiqué

October 2016

The Board held its 96th regular meeting on Tuesday 4 October 2016 in Hobart.

Savage River Rehabilitation Program (SRRP)

The Board received a briefing on the financial reconciliation of the budget for 2015-2016 and the proposed budget for 2016-2017. The Board discussed several items in the 2015-2016 budget where there were significant departures from the budget estimates, while noting that the overall spending for the year remained well within the overall budget. Revenue from interest was less than expected. The Board approved the proposed budget for 2016-2017 for spending of up to \$395,400 from the SRRP monies held in the Environment Protection Fund (EPF), and gave in-principle approval for the deduction of up to \$2,924,500 from the Purchase Price debt (owed by the owners of the mine) subject to further consideration of the \$2 million dollar component for the construction of bunds to divert acid drainage from the Old Tailings Dam. The Board resolved that proposals for any variations in expenditure of greater than 20% for any line item should be presented to the Board for approval.

The Board also considered a proposal to expend up to \$98,500 from the Purchase Price for modifications to a lime-dosing plant to enable the treatment of acid drainage from the Old Tailings Dam. The works will provide a contingency in the event that neutralisation of this drainage (which is the State's responsibility) by fresh tailings from Grange is interrupted for a significant period of time. Such an interruption would jeopardise the chemical stability of the Main Creek Tailings Dam. The Board provided in-principle support for the expenditure, noting that the next step will be to engage an independent expert to review the design.

Special Fee Remission

The Board considered and approved a special fee remission for Jenkins Hire Pty Ltd in relation to a composting facility at Salmon Ponds.

Sustainability Awards

The Board received a briefing on the judging of the EPA Sustainability Award for a cleaner production initiative as part of the Tasmanian Community Achievement Awards and advice on the presentation arrangements.

Performance Review

The Board considered a paper prepared by the Chair which summarised member's responses to a questionnaire on the performance of the Board and its support from EPA Tasmania. The Board agreed on a number of actions arising from the discussion ranging from some administrative improvements to some structural initiatives such as the scheduling of an annual workshop to discuss strategic issues.