

# **EPA Board Communiqué**

**October 2017**

*The Board held its 108th meeting in Hobart on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017*

## **Draft Sponsorship Strategy**

The Board considered a paper prepared by the Communications Coordinator presenting a draft sponsorship strategy. The Board clarified that the strategy was intended to apply to applications for sponsorship from the Environment Protection Fund (controlled by the Board) rather than grants that EPA Tasmania may make from its budget allocation. The question of whether the Director should consult with the Board prior to granting sponsorship under the EPA logo was discussed. It was agreed that this was not necessary provided that the sponsorship is not likely to negatively impact the EPA brand. The Board also agreed that, once the sponsorship strategy is agreed and signed off, only the larger sponsorship requests (more than \$1500) need come to the Board. Smaller applications can be dealt with under delegation. A number of refinements to the strategy were requested with the updated strategy to be brought back to a future meeting.

## **Request for sponsorship – Plasticwise Tarooma**

The Board considered a request for sponsorship from Plasticwise Tarooma. While the Board supported the objectives of this organisation, it considered the request for sponsorship to bring an interstate consultant to Tasmania to address several schools did not represent good value for money. The Board requested EPA Tasmania to explain the reasons for its decision to Plasticwise so that they would have the opportunity to develop a more appropriate request for sponsorship in the future.

## **Assessment of Sand Mine Expansion at Bridport**

The Board completed the assessment of an application by Mr Richard Saddler to increase the maximum permitted rate of extraction from an existing sand mine site at Anderson Bay near Bridport. The proposal is largely based on the export of sand by boat. A second planning application will deal with the transport of sand to the boat via a jetty and conveyor. The main issue discussed by the Board was natural values as there are wetland areas that support the threatened green and gold frog. A condition to protect most wetland areas from disturbance will be included in the permit. The Board considered that most other environmental issues can be relatively easily managed given the separation of the sand extraction area from residences in other ownership. The Board resolved to advise the Dorset Council that a permit can be issued.

## **Director's Briefing**

The Director advised that via an Environment Protection Notice he had amended the conditions applying to the Cattle Hill windfarm to modify the requirements for shutdown in

response to eagle fatalities. Impacts on raptors appears to have declined. He advised that the Bill to amend EMPCA to provide for the EPA to regulate the salmon industry had been passed by the Upper House with minor amendments. Regulations will be required to define the roles of the Board and the Director. Once Royal Assent occurs the Act comes into force and any land based proposals will come to the Board for assessment. Marine activities will continue to be regulated by the Director under delegation from the Secretary until the regulations come into force and new environmental licences are issued.

### **Review of the Assessment Process**

The final report from Ian Abernethy has been received and will be circulated to Board members. The Board agreed that it would be appropriate, in the first instance, for EPA Tasmania to formulate a response to the recommendations in the report. The Board will then discuss these prior to its draft response to the report being released for comment.