

EPA Board Communiqué

October 2019

Regular Meeting 131, Tuesday 1 October 2019

Review of Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act

Amendments to the Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act are proposed to give effect to a list of relatively minor amendments that have been identified during the past 18 months. The amendments include:

- Clarifying the definition of clean fill
- Enabling the public release of monitoring information received by the EPA
- Providing powers for an EPA officer to take action in emergency situations
- Streamlining the process for amending Environment Protection Policies, and
- Fine-tuning the fish farming provisions of the Act.

The Board was provided with a draft of the amendment Bill and a briefing on the amendments proposed with a focus on how they relate to the Board's powers and functions. The draft Bill has been available for public consultation.

Savage River Rehabilitation Project (SRRP) – Financial Statement and Budget

The Board examined the financial reconciliation for expenditure in the 2018/2019 year and noted that the balance of the SRRP funds held in the Environment Protection Fund at the end of the financial year was \$12.89 million, a decrease of about \$100,000 during the year. The Board approved the budget of \$465,000 for the SRRP for 2019/2020 noting that the major items of expenditure were for monitoring, research and project administration.

Environmental Guidelines for Sewerage Pump Stations

Pump stations are an essential part of sewerage infrastructure. The sewerage system and pump stations have a finite capacity and can overflow during extreme weather events. The State Policy on Water Quality Management (SPWQM) requires that pump stations are designed and operated in accordance with guidelines issued or endorsed by the EPA Board.

A review of guidelines released in 1999 has been undertaken by the EPA and a revised set of guidelines prepared. Consultation with key stakeholders has been undertaken. The main features of the updated guidelines are:

- Contemporary state-wide performance targets to limit overflows from pump stations
- The identification of high-risk pump stations that should be subject to regulatory oversight

- Guidance for the designers and operators of pump stations that are not part of the TasWater network.

The Board discussed several aspects of pump station operation, including reporting spills. There appears to be a lack of data regarding spills and the Board requested that measures to improve data collection be examined.

The Board endorsed the new guidelines for the purposes of s. 28 of the SPWQM and approved publication of the guidelines.

Acknowledgement of Aboriginal People and Country Statement for the EPA web-site

The Board considered several options for a statement of recognition and acknowledgement to appear on the EPA website, currently under redevelopment, and approved the preferred option for use.
