

EPA Board Communiqué

September 2017

The Board held its 107th meeting in Hobart on Thursday 14th September 2017

Composting Guidelines

The Board received a briefing on whether the Victorian Composting Guidelines should be adopted for use in Tasmania. The briefing recommended that future composting proposals be examined on a case by case basis and that any interstate or international guidelines be used as and when appropriate.

Guidelines for determining when an assessment is not required.

The Board has delegated its powers to determine when an assessment of a Level 2 activity by the Board is not required. The Board has issued guidelines for the exercise of this delegation and had previously requested amendments to these guidelines. Amendments to the guidelines in relation to ancillary activities were discussed. The Board approved the updated guidelines.

Quarry Code of Practice

The Quarry Code of Practice is an important tool for the regulation of quarries as it provides a guide to best and acceptable practices. It is often called up by the Board in conditions placed upon quarries and extractive pits. The standards set out in the Code often form the basis for conditions. The Code has been reviewed and updated and the latest edition was published in early 2017. The Board received a briefing from the senior regulatory officer for quarries and the EPA's noise specialist on the key changes that were made in the new edition of the Code and how this may be reflected in assessments and conditions recommended to the Board.

Treatment of Residential Zones in Assessments

Following a recent appeal involving the expansion of a quarry near land zoned for environmental living, the Board reviewed a draft procedure codifying how EPA Tasmania officers should consider land zoned for residential development in the assessment process. The procedure had been developed in consultation with the Government's Policy and Planning Unit. The Board discussed the procedure in the context of the new Statewide Planning Scheme and requested that a revised procedure be brought to a subsequent meeting.

Savage River Remediation Program Financial Reconciliation and Budget for 2017/2018

The Board discussed and noted the financial reconciliation for 2016/2017 and approved the expenditure of \$443,000 from the Environment Protection Fund to fund the SRRP for 2017/2018.

Special Fee Remissions

The Board considered applications for special fee remissions from Sally Peak Sandstone and BCD Resources and rejected both applications as they did not meet the requirements of the Board's guidelines.

Major Projects Legislation

The Board received correspondence from the Minister for Planning and Local Government inviting comment on a draft Bill to amend LUPAA to provide for the assessment of major projects. The Board reviewed how the EPA assessment process would interact with the proposed major project legislation. Several issues were identified that warranted feedback to the Minister. However, it was concluded that, as all of these would be addressed in the response from EPA Tasmania, it was not necessary for the Board to provide a separate response.

Director's Briefing

The Director provided an update for the Board on progress with several high profile assessments, regulation of the salmon industry, regulation of water and sewage in the light of proposed changes to the ownership of TasWater and the status of the Pulp Mill Permit.