

EPA Board Communiqué

September 2018

The Board's Meeting number 120 was held on Tuesday 4th September 2018.

Special Fee Remissions

The Board considered applications for special fee remissions from King Island Scheelite and Basslink Pty Ltd. Although the King Island Scheelite mine is not operational, significant regulatory effort was required by the EPA in 2016-2017 and, therefore, the Board granted only a partial remission of the annual fee for this period. The operation of the Basslink cable and connector in Tasmania requires little ongoing regulatory effort by the EPA and, therefore, the Board granted an ongoing remission of most of the annual fee for this activity.

Communication Plan and Consultation Package for the Assessment Process Review

The Board reviewed drafts of the Communications Plan and Consultation Package. A number of amendments were requested to provide a more detailed introduction to the Consultation Package and clarify the Board's intent for several issues. With respect to the Communications Plan, the Board noted that environmental/conservation groups needed to be considered as a separate stakeholder group and consulted accordingly. The Board also discussed how the success of the reforms could be measured. It was agreed that an annual review of the implementation plan would be carried out. The revised Communication Plan and Consultation Package will be presented to the October meeting for approval.

Notice of Intent – Finfish Activities

The Board considered a proposal from EPA Tasmania to amend the information required when a Notice of Intent is submitted for finfish activities. The *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* allows the Board to refuse a licence application if the applicant has contravened or committed an offence against environmental legislation. The Board determined that information regarding any contraventions or convictions should be included in the Notice of Intent to allow an early decision on such matters.

Tyretakers Assessment Review

The Board considered a report from the Coordinator-General's Office comparing the assessment of similar proposals for a tyre pyrolysis plant in Tasmania and South Australia. The Board requested a response from EPA Tasmania so that it can determine if further modifications to the assessment process are warranted.

Ethics Decision-making

The Board completed two units from the Integrity Commission's package on Ethical Decision Making. These were "Gifts and Benefits" and "Use of Position". The Board has now completed all units from the package.