

Minutes

Meeting No.: 198
Date: Tuesday 20 January 2026 12 – 3:00 pm
Location: Online | EPA Office, 40 Elizabeth Street, Hobart

PRESENT

Board

Andrew Paul (Chair)
Mark Gifford (Member) (via Teams)
Cindy Ong (A/Director/CEO EPA) (via Teams)
Ian Cresswell (Member)
Rosanna Coombes (via Teams)

Other attendees

Fionna Bourne (Manager, Environmental Engagement, EPA)
Amanda Locatelli (Director Environmental Assessment, EPA)
Catherine Browning (A/Manager Assessments, EPA) (Items 198.8, 198.9 and 198.10)
Andrew Mesthos (Principal Assessment Officer, EPA) (Item 198.8)
Mary Gibbs (Principal Assessment Officer, EPA) (Item 198.8)

The Chair of the Board expressed, on behalf of all members of the Board, condolences to the family and friends on the passing of Grace Vaszocz. Grace was fondly remembered for her assistance as Executive Officer to the Board in recent years and she will be greatly missed by the members of the Board and wider EPA.

198.1 Apologies

An apology from Catherine Murdoch was noted, and that Cindy Ong was attending the meeting as Acting Director.

General Board Business

198.2 Minutes of Board meetings

a). Meeting no. 197 held on 2 December 2025

With one minor typographical correction the Board resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of meeting 197 of the EPA Board held on Tuesday 2 December 2025.

198.3 Board decision registers.

a). Board Decision Register

The Board noted the Board Decision Register.

b). Out of Session Decision Register

The Board noted the Out of Session Decision Register.

198.4 Declaration of Interests

The Board declared no conflicts of interest.

198.5 Delegations

The Board noted and received the report as presented.

198.6 Actions arising

The Board noted the actions arising table and corrected a couple of typographical errors.

198.7 Standing action items

The Board noted the Standing Action item list.

198.7a Delegations

The Board took the paper as read.

The Board resolved that:

- (1) previous EPA Board Delegations and Authorisations approved by the EPA Board on 11 November 2025 are revoked with immediate effect.
- (2) acting pursuant to section 16(1) of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA) to delegate to any person for the time being holding the office or position of Director, Environment Protection Authority and Chief Executive Officer (State Service Position Number 334398) and the Director Environmental Assessment (State Service Position Number 702186) the functions and powers of the Board described by reference to the relevant provisions(s) of EMPCA and generally in columns 1 and 2 of Schedule 1A subject to the conditions and qualifications specified in column 3 of Schedule 1A of the table of EPA Board Delegations.
- (3) acting pursuant to section 16(1) of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (EMPCA) to delegate to any person for the time being holding the office or position of Director, Environmental Regulation (State Service Position Number 708915) and the Director, Finfish Compliance (State Service Position Number 708916) the functions and powers of the Board described by reference to the relevant provisions(s) of EMPCA and generally in columns 1 and 2 of Schedule 1B subject to the conditions and qualifications specified in column 3 of Schedule 1B of the table of EPA Board Delegations.
- (4) acting pursuant to section 16(1) of EMPCA to delegate to any person for the time being holding the office or position of Manager (Assessments) (State Service Position Number 700560) the functions and powers of the Board described by reference to the relevant provision(s) of EMPCA and generally in columns 1 and 2 of Schedule 2A subject to the conditions and qualifications specified in column 3 of Schedule 2A of the table of EPA Board Delegations.
- (5) acting pursuant to section 16(1) of EMPCA to delegate to any person for the time being holding the office or position of Principal Assessment Officer (State Service Position Numbers 709045, 709046 and 709130) and Principal Assessment Officer (Renewables) (State Service Position Number 709951) the functions and powers of the Board described by reference to the relevant provision(s) of EMPCA and generally in columns 1 and 2 of Schedule 2B subject to the conditions and qualifications specified in column 3 of Schedule 2B of the table of EPA Board Delegations.
- (6) acting pursuant to section 16(1) of EMPCA to delegate to any person for the time being holding the office or position of Director, Environment Protection Authority and Chief Executive Officer (State Service Position Number 334398), the Director Environmental Assessment (State Service Position Number 702186) and the Director, Finfish Compliance (State Service Position Number 708916) the functions and powers of the Board described by reference to the relevant provision(s) of EMPCA and

generally in columns 1 and 2 of Schedule 3 subject to the conditions and qualifications specified in column 3 of Schedule 3 of the table of EPA Board Delegations.

- (7) acting pursuant to section 16(1) of EMPCA to delegate to any person for the time being holding the office or position of Director, Environment Protection Authority and Chief Executive Officer (State Service Position Number 334398), Director Environmental Assessment (State Service Position Number 702186) and the Director, Environmental Regulation (State Service Position Number 708915) the functions and powers of the Board described by reference to relevant provision(s) of EMPCA and generally in columns 1 and 2 of Schedule 4 subject to the conditions and qualifications specified in column 3 of Schedule 4 of the table of the EPA Board Delegations.
- (8) acting pursuant to section 16(1) of EMPCA to delegate to any person for the time being holding the officer or position of Director, Environment Protection Authority and Chief Executive Officer (State Service Position Number 334398), Director Environmental Assessment (State Service Position Number 702186), the Director, Environmental Regulation (State Service Position Number 708915) and the Director, Finfish Compliance (State Service Position Number 708916) the functions and powers of the Board described by reference to the relevant provision(s) of EMPCA and generally in columns 1 and 2 of Schedule 5A subject to the conditions and qualifications specified in column 3 of Schedule 5A of the table of the EPA Board Delegations.
- (9) acting pursuant to section 16(1) of EMPCA to delegate to any person for the time being holding the officer or position of Manager (Assessments)(State Service Position Number 700560) the functions and powers of the Board described by reference to the relevant provision(s) of EMPCA and generally in columns 1 and 2 of Schedule 5B subject to the conditions and qualifications specified in column 3 of Schedule 5B of the table of the EPA Board Delegations.

198.7b Authorisations

The Board took the paper as read.

The Board resolved to remake the EPA Board Authorisations as contained in Attachment 1.

197.8 Walters Contracting Pty Ltd – Porters Bridge Road Quarry Intensification – 190 Porters Bridge Road, Reedy Marsh

The Board took the paper as read.

The Board noted the new format of the Environmental Assessment Report (EAR) and observed it was easier to read and distil the critical issues associated with the proposal. The consideration of sustainable development elements throughout the new format of the Environmental Assessment Report was noted and considered a wholistic approach. However, the Board noted that the removal of the specific section on sustainable development considerations may cause concern, particularly given the Government's election commitment to improve/strengthen sustainable development considerations during this term of Government. The Board asked for an update at a future Board meeting on this policy position and what the Government is doing to improve/strengthen sustainable development during this term of Government.

In discussing the draft permit the Board noted that the new condition N2 sets a precedent and does not require the preparation of a management plan, it is to clearly require verification for noise modelling at full quarry operation early in the new permit and does not require ongoing verification throughout the life of the quarry. Further the Board discussed the potential for confusion between the operating hours outlined in condition OPI, and specific clauses about hours relating to specific activities contained in condition N5.

The Board approved the following amendments as illustrated by italics below to conditions N3, N4 and N5.

- N4(4) A noise survey report must be forwarded to the Director within 30 days from the date on which the noise survey is completed, *or otherwise at a time approved in writing by the Director.*
- N3 1.1 deleted, and rest of condition renumbered accordingly.
- N5 3.4 deleted the word "operating" before the word "hours".
- N4 3.5 deleted the word "operating" before the word "hours"

The Board noted that the EAR would be amended to explain the above edits to the permit.

In addition, for clarity the Board approved the amendment of condition OPI to include “and transport” after the word “loading” where it appears in the second line of the condition.

The Board noted that in condition BI the permit provides that blasting must not take place on public holidays, however the operating hours contained in OPI indicates that operations can occur on site on Easter Tuesday (which is a gazetted public holiday). The Board sort clarification on whether blasting could occur on site on Easter Tuesday. EPA Staff undertook to take this matter on notice and resolve.

The Board discussed matters associated with maintaining a 10m buffer adjacent to areas of *Eucalyptus ovata* woodland (DOV), other than where it adjoins the internal haul road. It was noted that the alignment of the DOV between points DOV002 and DOV003 on the map can not have a 10m buffer maintained as the vegetation in the extraction area has been cleared in accordance with the pre-clearance report submitted to the EPA in May 2025. The issue of a non-compliance due to an existing approved clearing is a valid concern. Therefore, the Board approved the following amendment (noted in strikethrough and italics) to condition FFI clause 2.1:

- ~~except adjacent to the internal access road,~~ a 10 metre buffer must be applied between the barrier and the *Eucalyptus ovata* forest and woodland community *between points DOV006 and DOV009 as shown in Attachment 2;*

The Board noted that the conditions contained in FF5 relating to the Curved Rice Flower were included as a result of advice from the Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania requesting that additional survey work be undertaken in relation to that species.

The Board resolved to:

- 1 Adopt, in principal the draft Environmental Assessment Report and draft PCE No. 12025 in Attachment 1 as amended.
- 2 That the revised Environmental Assessment Report and draft PCE No. 12025 would be circulated to the Board for final approval.
- 3 Authorise the Chairperson to sign the final Environmental Assessment Report and final PCE No. 12025 on its behalf.
- 4 In accordance with section 25(5)(a)(i) of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*, to notify Meander Valley Council that the conditions and restrictions in PCE No. 12025 must be contained in a permit granted by the planning authority under the *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* in respect of the activity, if a permit is to be granted.
- 5 In accordance with section 25(5)(a)(ii) of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*, to provide Council with a copy of the final Environmental Assessment Report to outline the reasons for the conditions and restrictions and authorises the Chairperson to sign the letter to Council in Attachment 2 on its behalf.
- 6 To provide the proponent with a copy of the final Environmental Assessment Report and authorises the Chairperson to sign the letter to the proponent in Attachment 3 on its behalf.
- 7 Adopt the draft media release in Attachment 4.
- 8 Determine that, in the event that Meander Valley Council grants a Permit and in accordance with Regulation 17 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (General) Regulations 2017*, Walters Contracting Pty Ltd is exempted from any further liability to pay the annual permit fee for Permit No. PA\21\0267 (containing PCE No. 10885).
- 9 Note that, should a permit be granted by Meander Valley Council, an invoice will be issued in due course to Walters Contracting Pty Ltd for the additional amount they are required to pay for the fees owed for the intensified activity during the current financial year, minus the amount they have already paid under the previous permit.

198.9 Request to use funds from the Environment Protection Fund to Review the Quarry Code of Practice

The Board took the paper as read and noted that the review of the Quarry Code of Practice is a key priority for Government and relevant stakeholders for which the EPA does not have funding to undertake. The Board agreed that using funds from the Environment Protection Fund to undertake this review would be consistent with section 97(3) of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*, however, the Board would be concerned if the Environment Protection Fund was to be reduced further in the future for these types of initiatives, which are essentially core Government business. The Board further noted that as the EPA is not

the only Government Agency with an interest in the review of the Quarry Code of Practice, that if further funds were required to complete the review, then Mineral Resources Tasmania should be approached for a contribution to the review,

The Board resolved to approve the expenditure of \$50,000 from the Environment Protection Fund to review and update the Quarry Code of Practice.

198.10 Assessments in Progress Tracking Sheet

The Board was advised on the process of the project to replace the existing licensing system within the EPA and that the new system would provide, among other things, for a contemporary reporting system for matters such as assessments in progress. In the meantime, an interim spreadsheet system would be used to update the Board on the progress of assessments. The Board was given a presentation on the proposed interim process.

198.11 Media Releases - <https://epa.tas.gov.au/epa/news>

All recent media releases to be circulated to the Board.

198.12 Correspondence

There was no correspondence to the Board received since the last meeting.


198.13 Other Business

The Board agreed to shift the April Board meeting from the first Tuesday in the month, being Easter Tuesday, to the second Tuesday being 14 April 2026. The Board also agreed to have a place holder meeting for June 9 in case the meeting scheduled for 2 June 2026 is delayed due to Budget Estimates Week commitments.

Next meeting: **Tuesday 3 February 12.00pm**

Meeting closed at 2:27pm

Minutes endorsed by:



Andrew Paul

CHAIRPERSON

BOARD OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

DATE: 3 February 2026