

# Minutes



**Meeting No.:** 170  
**Date:** Tuesday 4 April 2023 at 2.00 pm  
**Location:** Level 1 Meeting Room No. 1.01 (Florentine),  
40 Elizabeth Street, Hobart

## PRESENT

**Board**

Mr Andrew Paul (Chairperson)  
Ms Amanda Locatelli (Member) – via MS Teams  
Mr Wes Ford (Member)  
Mr Mark Gifford (Deputy Member) – via MS Teams (If any decisions require a vote Mr Mark Gifford will vote in Ms Belinda Hazell's absence)

**Other attendees**

Dr Martin Read (Executive Director, Environmental Assessments, EPA)  
Ms Fiona Bourne (Manager, Environmental Engagement, EPA)  
Ms Helen Mulligan (Manager, Assessments), EPA)

Meeting commenced at 2.03pm

### 170.1 Apologies

There were two apologies for the 170<sup>th</sup> EPA Board meeting.

- Ms Belinda Hazell (Member)
- Dr Ian Cresswell (Member)

### 170.2 Minutes of Board meetings

The Board resolved to:

- Approve the minutes, as a true and correct record of the 169<sup>th</sup> EPA Board Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2023. The Board noted that an action item from the February meeting was to invite a representative from RECFIT to provide a presentation to the Board on Tasmania's Climate Change Strategic Priorities.

### 170.3 Board Decision Register

The Board noted the Decision Register that was circulated.

### 170.4 Declaration(s) of Interests

The Board noted the declarations of interests. There were no further declarations of interest raised for the 170<sup>th</sup> EPA Board meeting.

### 170.5 Delegations

The Board noted the decisions made under delegation since the previous meeting.

## **170.6 Actions arising**

There were a number of actions arising from previous meetings of the Board to report on.

Meeting 147.7 (4 August 2020) Review Odour Section of the Air Policy. The Executive Director – Environmental Assessments provided a verbal update on this action and the Board agreed that this Action had been completed with the finalisation and publication of the Board Statement – Update to Air Pollutant Design Criteria used in the EIA process of January 2022.

Meeting 169.7c (7 February 2023) EPA Board Field Inspections and 169.14 (7 February 2023) Review of EPA Assessment Framework were discussed under specific sections of the Agenda for meeting 170.

## **170.7 Standing action items**

There were no standing action items to report on at this meeting of the Board.

## **Items for Decision**

### **170.8 Impacts of Level 2 activities on “noise sensitive premises”**

- The Board took the Briefing Paper, Impacts of Level 2 activities on “noise sensitive premises” as read.
- The Board noted the concern that there may be inconsistencies between how the EPA and the Local Government Planning System deal with this issue.
- As the EPA provides conditions that are imposed through a *Land Use Planning and Approvals Act 1993* permit the EPA conditions should be aligned with those of Local Government.
- It was noted that the Planning Code is the minimum standard, and that the EPA considers each project on its merits and may determine additional requirements as it is not a “one size fits all” process.
- The Board resolved to:
  - (1) Note the information in the Briefing Paper
  - (2) Considered and approved the proposal to undertake a review of the assessment and regulation of the potential impacts of Level 2 activities on ‘noise sensitive premises’, ‘sensitive uses’ and ‘sensitive receptors’, to inform the development of an EPA Board position on this issue
  - (3) Note that while this review will be undertaken to inform the updated draft of the EIS Guidelines Template that will be presented to the Board for consideration and approval at an upcoming Board meeting, the Project Manager responsible for the broader review of the EPA Board’s approach to environmental assessment in Tasmania will be closely consulted to ensure that any longer term recommendations and outcomes are considered and actioned.

### **170.9 EPA Sustainability Award Criteria Review**

- The Board took the Briefing Paper, Review of entry criteria for the EPA Sustainability Award as read.
- The Board considered the revised EPA Sustainability Award Criteria and observed that “sustainability” in the corporate/industry context is likely to be different to that in the community sector and writing criteria to fit both sectors may be problematic.
- The Board indicated that they were open to sponsoring two sustainability awards, one aimed at the corporate/industry sector and one at the community sector. The Director undertook to discuss the matter with Awards Australia.
- An amendment to the second paragraph of the revised Criteria in attachment two was suggested to include the words “and/or organisations’ after the word “businesses”.
- The Board resolved to:
  - (1) Approve the updated entry criteria for the EPA Sustainability Award (Attachment 2) with the amendment to include the words “and/or organisations” after the word “businesses” in the second paragraph.

## Items for Noting

### 170.10 Salmon Environmental Standard Update

The Director (Finfish Compliance) provided an update on the development of the Salmon Environmental Standard.

### 170.11 Project Update – Release of environmental monitoring information

The Board took the Briefing Paper Environmental Monitoring Information Disclosure Policy paper as read.

### 170.12 Assessments in Progress

The Assessments in Progress Report was noted by the Board. Board members raised questions regarding a number of long standing assessments that had not progressed including Kind Island Abattoir, ReProcess Tasmania and Van Dairy. The Executive Director Environmental Assessments outlined that in all cases a number of extensions had been granted and the next step would be to recommend that the Board formally ceases assessment. It was agreed that a package would be provided to the Board by the June meeting.

### 170.13 Media Releases

No Media Releases had been issued since the last meeting of the Board.

### 170.14 Correspondence

The Board noted the letter from Ms Mia McCarthy regarding migratory shorebirds and Robbins Island and requested that an acknowledgement letter response be provided from the Director on behalf of the Board.

The Board noted the letter from the Minister for Planning regarding the Board's submission on the draft Tasmanian Planning Policies. The Executive Director Environmental Assessments will provide out of session communication to the Board on how the Consultation Report addresses the key issues raised by the Board including, potential duplication of TPP's with the State Policy for Water Quality Management and the apparent gap in the current system of SPPs, namely the inability of local councils to assess issues associated with construction impacts regarding noise and air quality, in addition to operational noise, air and water quality for Level 1 activities which are not caught up in the Attenuation Code, particularly where the proposal is a permitted use in the applicable zone.

### 170.15 Other Business

The Board were provided with an update on the project to review the EPA Assessment Processes and advised an information paper on the project will be provided at a later Board meeting.

### 170.16 Strategic Issues

The Board were advised that the Minister has not provided a Statement of Expectation.

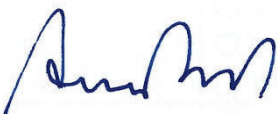
The Board noted that the draft EPA Strategic Plan will need to be finalized and endorsed at the June 2023 meeting to allow for the preparation of the EPA Operation Plan for 2023/24.

### 170.17 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday the **2<sup>nd</sup> of May** 2023 at 2.00 pm.

The 170<sup>th</sup> EPA Board meeting closed at 5:20pm.

### Minutes endorsed by:



Andrew Paul  
**CHAIRPERSON**  
**BOARD OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

DATE: 2 May 2023