

Minutes

Meeting No.: 174
Date: Tuesday 5th of September 2023 at 2.00 pm
Location: Level 1 Meeting Room No. 1.01 (Florentine), 40 Elizabeth Street, Hobart
(entrance via Collins Street)

PRESENT

Board

- Mr Andrew Paul (Chairperson)
- Ms Amanda Locatelli (Member) – via MS Teams
- Ms Belinda Hazell (Member)
- Dr Ian Cresswell (Member)
- Mr Mark Gifford (Deputy Member) – via Ms Teams
- Dr Martin Read (Executive Director, Environmental Assessments, EPA) – for Wes Ford

Other attendees

- Ms Fiona Bourne (Manager, Environmental Engagement, EPA)
- Ms Zoe Palmer (Assessments Support Officer, Assessments, EPA)
- Ms Grace Vaszocz (Executive Officer, EPA)
- Ms Mary Gibbs (Senior Environmental Officer, Assessments, EPA)
- Ms Sarah Graham (Project Manager, Remediation, EPA)

174.1 Apologies

Mr Wes Ford (Member)

174.2 Minutes of Board Meetings

a. 173rd EPA Board Meeting minutes held on the 4th July 2023

The Board resolved to:

- Approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the 173rd EPA Board Meeting held on the 4th of July 2023.

174.3 Board Decision Register

The Board noted the Decision Register that was circulated.

174.4 Declaration of Interests

The Board noted the declarations of interests. There were no further declarations of interest raised for the 174th EPA Board meeting.

Items for Noting

174.5 Assessment Review Framework Project Progress (PowerPoint presentation)

EPA staff provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation updating them on the progress of the Assessment Review Framework. The Board noted that they would like to see the report by the February 2024 meeting and suggested a Board Workshop toward the end of this year would be useful.

Items for Decision

174.6 EPA Annual Report

The Board made some minor comments on the formatting of the report but agreed that the content was good. The Chairperson advised that the Board wasn't listed in the Organisational Structure of the report and suggested that it should be added. Other members provided the following comments.

- First report as an independent statutory authority, while content is good, different tense used in various sections of the report.
- Would be good to have indicators that can provide trends in improvement or otherwise.
- Reference to not achieving the Strategic Plan – better to say, “partially achieved”.
- Some explanatory notes for financial information would be beneficial.

174.7 Guidelines for Making Decisions Under Delegations

Board members agreed that it was appropriate to delegate an extension of time of up to 12 months. Any further requests for extension under section 27F(1)(b) would need to be considered by the Board.

The Board accepted the paper as read, and resolved to:

- Agree to delete the paragraph on page 10 of the Guidelines which reads as follows:
- “In the case of a delegate providing agreement to an extension of time under section 27F(1)(b), the maximum extension that can be agreed to by the delegate is a period of six (6) months. Agreement to any extension of time under section 27F(1)(b) of greater than three (3) months must be provided by the Board.”
- Agree to delete the conditions and qualifications contained in column 3 of the delegations relating to EMPCA provision s.27 F(1)(b) referencing Part B of the Guidelines.
- Endorse for publication the revised version of the “Guidelines for Making Decisions under Delegation”.
- Ratify any previous delegation decisions since August 2022 that were not in keeping with Boards Delegation or guidelines by tabling previous decisions for ratification by the Board on the 3rd of October 2023 Board meeting.

174.8 Sponsorship Applications

a. Paddling Tasmania

- The Board agreed to refuse the request for sponsorship funding to assist with the running of the 2023 Paddling Forum and Awards night in the range of \$2,000-5,000 made by Paddle Tasmania as the application does not meet the requirements for funding set out in the EPA Guidelines for Sponsorship Proposals.
- The Board suggested the letter is amended to provide reasons why the funding was not supported based on the Guidelines.
- Approves the Chair signing amended letter on behalf of the Board to Paddle Tasmania advising of the decision of the Board not to provide sponsorship funding.

b. Carmel Towns

- The Board agreed to refuse the request for sponsorship funding to assist with the provision of

consumables for the PhD research of Ms Carmel Towns for \$25,000 as the application does not meet the requirements for funding set out in the EPA Guidelines for Sponsorship Proposals.

- The Board suggested the letter is amended to provide reasons why the funding was not supported based on the Guidelines.
- Approves the Chair signing an amended letter on behalf of the Board to Ms Towns advising of the decision of the Board not to provide sponsorship funding.

General (continuing)

174.9 Delegations

The Board resolved to:

- Note the Delegations report. A number of questions were asked regarding specific delegations (Venture Minerals, Blackmans Bay Pipeline). The Executive Director will provide a summary of those particular delegations via email prior to the next Board meeting.

174.10 Actions Arising

The Executive Director noted only one outstanding Action arising to provide Board Members an update on the implementation of recommendations arising from the Abernethy Report.

174.11 Standing Action Items

a. Environment Protection Fund

The Board accepted the paper that was circulated.

b. Savage River Rehabilitation Project Annual Report and Financial Reconciliation 2022-23

The Project Manager, Remediation, EPA provided the Board with a verbal update and the opportunity to ask questions on the paper.

The Board provided commentary on the paper regarding;

- The stability assessment and recommendations for further testing and modelling
- Improvements in water quality covered in the Water Quality review
- the ongoing Cobalt Study
- The Strategic Plan and outstanding action items
- The loss of 2 water quality sampling sites and water balance modelling
- The need to independently review the SRRP risk register
- Weed Management Plans

The Board also noted a number of errors in the financial statement including inconsistency in financial figures provided in Table I and errors relating to the balance carried forward and forecast budget and the reporting of actual expenditure. The Board agreed to accept the Financial Reconciliation in principle subject to the errors being corrected.

The Board resolved to:

- Note Savage River Rehabilitation Project Annual Report and Financial Reconciliation 2022-23, subject to the correction of financial errors as detailed in the briefing paper.

Items for Noting (continuing)

174.12 Assessments in Progress

The Board resolved to:

- Note Assessments in Progress and Other Assessments Report.

174.13 Media Releases

The Board resolved to:

- Note new media releases were on the EPA website.

174.14 Correspondence

a. Letter from Preferred Training Networks Pty Ltd – Welcoming back in-person PD Training near Sorell

The Board resolved to:

- Note the letter from Preferred Training Networks Pty Ltd.

174.15 Other Business

- Amanda Locatelli (Member) advised that she would be an apology for the October board meeting.

174.16 Strategic Issues

a. Ministerial Statement of Expectation

The Board resolved to:

- Note the Ministerial Statement of Expectation.

174.18 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday the 3rd of October 2023 at 2.00 pm**

The 174th EPA Board meeting closed at 3:53pm.

Minutes endorsed by:

Andrew Paul

CHAIRPERSON

BOARD OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

DATE: 5 September 2023