
Meeting No. 184
Date: Tuesday 6 August at 12 noon
Level 1 Meeting Room No. 1.01 (Florentine), 40 Elizabeth Street, Hobart

PRESENT

Board

Andrew Paul (Chair)
Mark Gifford (Member) via Teams
Wes Ford (Member)
Ian Cresswell (Member)
Rosanna Coombes (Member)
Therese Flapper (Deputy Member) via Teams

Other attendees

Martin Read (Executive Director, Environmental Assessments, EPA)
Helen Mulligan Manager Assessments, EPA)
Zoe Palmer (Assessment Support Officer, EPA) – Minutes
David Oldmeadow (Principal Assessment Officer (Assessments), EPA)
Mary Gibbs (Principal Assessment Officer (Assessments), EPA)
Natalie Holman (Senior Environmental Officer (Assessments), EPA) – Observing for the Grange discussion
Joshua Gilchrist (Environmental Officer (Assessments), EPA) – Observing for the Grange discussion

The meeting commenced at 12 Noon.

184.1 Apologies

The Board noted that Fionna Bourne (Manager, Environmental Engagement, EPA) is an apology for Board meeting 184.

184.2 Minutes of Board meetings

a. 183rd Board meeting minutes held on 2 July 2024

The Board resolved to:

- Approve the minutes of the 183rd EPA Board meeting held on 2 July 2024 as a true and accurate record of that meeting; and

184.3 Board Decision Registers

- a. Board decision register.
- b. Out of session decision register

The Board noted the two decision registers that were circulated.

184.4 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest raised for the 184th Board meeting.

It was noted that all Board members should now complete a new declaration of interest form. The Executive Assistant will circulate the template to all Board Members.

184.5 Delegations

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

184.6 Actions arising

The Board noted the status of items listed on the actions arising list.

184.7 Standing action items.

The Board noted the status of the items listed on the standing actions list.

- a) Environment Protection Fund – Financial statement

The Board resolved to:

- Note that EPA Business Manager will correct the paper and submit it as an out of session paper.

Items for Decision

184.8 Grange Resources (Tasmania) Pty Ltd, North Pit Underground Operations, Savage River Assessment

The Assessment Officer provided the Board with an overview of the assessment including a map of the site.

Board members discussed the proposal including the following topics:

- Water quality monitoring
- Deformation risk
- Rockfalls and slippages on the east side of the north pit
- Secondary management measures
- Mitigating large inputs to Broderick Creek
- Legacy issues and the Goldamere Act
- Water quality improvements to Savage River
- Construction issues

The Board requested a minor change to condition DC2 to remove the word 'reasonable'. The Board also considered the Proponent's comments on the draft conditions and accepted the and supported changes made by the EPA.

The Board resolved to:

- Request the draft Environmental Assessment Report be revised as discussed.

- Authorise the Chairperson to sign the final Environmental Assessment Report on its behalf.
- Notify, in accordance with section 25(5)(a)(i) of the EMPC Act, Waratah-Wynyard Council that the conditions and restrictions detailed in Appendix 2 of the Environmental Assessment Report (Permit Conditions – Environmental No. 12021) 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.
- Provide, in accordance with section 25(5)(a)(ii) of the EMPCA, Council with a copy of the final Environmental Assessment Report to outline the reasons for the conditions and restrictions.
- Exempt, in the event that Waratah-Wynyard Council grants a Permit, in accordance with Regulation 17 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control (General) Regulations 2017*, Grange Resources (Tasmania) Pty Ltd from any further liability to pay the annual permit fee for Permit No. DA 54/2024 (Waratah-Wynyard Council) (containing PCE No. 12021).

184.9 Framework Review – Final Report

The Final Report was presented to the Board for endorsement. The Project officer provided the Board with a verbal update and provided the background of the Framework Review and its purpose to the new Board Members. The Project officer also presented a slideshow covering a summary of priorities, policy and legislative action, and priorities for action.

Policies and legislative actions identified included:

- Engage with the Tasmanian Government re challenges and problems of EMPCA and the associated framework.
- Consider whether the Board wishes to further explore or develop a position on any of the specific issues raised in the review – e.g. scope of EIA under the Act.
- Proactively consider implications of the Nature Positive Plan and associated Legislation for Tasmanian EIA.
- Work with NRE Tasmania to develop a cohesive approach to offsets for natural values impacts.
- Advocate for a review of EMPCA fee structure to allow better cost recovery.
- Advocate for minor updates to EMPCA as identified in the report and in previous work by the EPA.
- Engage in artificial intelligence and digital Policy development of the Tasmanian Government and stay informed about these areas of rapid change.

Priorities for action identified included resourcing, streamlining the assessment process, improving assessment quality and improving communication.

The Board proposed to have an extended meeting in November to strategically consider the Report and next steps.

The Board resolved to:

- Note the Draft Assessment Framework Review Report;
- Request EPA Tasmania to send a copy of the Report to the Environment Minister in the next week;
- Defer until November 2024, endorsing the actions identified as priorities in Appendix A and the conclusion of the Report;
- Defer publishing the Report to a later date to be determined;
- Defer until November 2024, working with the EPA Director in using the conclusions of the Report, relating to legislative reform, in engagement with the State government; and
- Determine that a prioritised list of actions be developed for consideration by the Board.

184.10 Sponsorship Proposal – 10 Lives Cat Centre

The Board resolved to:

- Refuse the request for sponsorship funding to assist with carrying out the Pitt Water and Orielson Lagoon

Cat Management Community Project for \$74,000 as the application does not meet the requirements for funding set out in the EPA Guidelines for Sponsorship Proposals.

- Authorise the Chairperson to sign the letter on behalf of the Board notifying Ten Lives Cat Centre of the Board's decision not to provide sponsorship funding.

Items for Noting

184.11 Amendments to the Minamata Convention (list of mercury manufacturing processes)

The Board resolved to:

- Note the amendment to the Minamata Convention; and
- Approve the internal publication of the information sheet.

184.12 Assessments in Progress

The two new Board Members were provided with an overview of the assessments in progress list and how different classes of assessment are managed.

The Board resolved to:

Note the Assessments in Progress and Other Assessments Report.

184.13 Media Releases

[News | EPA Tasmania](#)

184.14 Correspondence

There was no correspondence received for the 184th Board meeting.

184.15 Other Business

- It was noted that Board members were able to add their employment as a Board member to their LinkedIn profile.
- Rosanna Coombes and Therese Flapper will both send the Executive Assistant a photo to use with their profile on the EPA website. All Board members will update or draft their bios, and provide them to the Executive Assistant, who will then organise for the EPA website to be updated.
- The Board requested a template for claiming reimbursements / out of pocket expenses. Business Services will develop a template and the Executive Director, Environmental Assessments will also follow up on Mark's expenses.
- It was noted that blocks of time will need to be set aside for going through the induction process with the two new Board members.
- The Board requested everything not current on the Teams channel be hidden, keeping just the last five meeting and induction channels in view.
- Andrew Paul and Therese Flapper advised that they will be apologies for the 3 September meeting.

184.16 Strategic issues for discussion

a. Major Projects Process

The Board discussed the letter the Executive Director, Environmental Assessments had distributed to Board members from the Tasmanian Planning Commission (TPC) to the EPA Board regarding the Major Project assessment criteria and guidance outlining a proposed protocol between the EPA and TPC.

The Board noted that EPA Tasmania will draft a response to the TPC.

b. Site visits – Salmon sites

The Board discussed undertaking site visits in early December 2024. It was suggested that the following sites could be visited as a day trip:

- Huon Aquaculture – Maiden Meadows Rendering Facility at Lonnvale.
- Huon Aquaculture – Whale Point Salmon Nursery at Port Huon.
- Tassal Operations – Rookwood Hatchery Expansion at Ranelagh.
- Possibly a marine site.

184.17 Review of Meeting

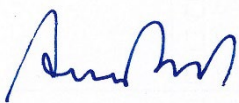
There were no comments for the 184th Board meeting.

184.18 Next Meeting

The next scheduled Board meeting is to occur on Tuesday 3 September 2024 at 12 noon.

The meeting closed at 3.48 pm.

Minutes endorsed by:



Andrew Paul

**CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

DATE: 6 August 2024