

## Minutes

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**Meeting No.:** 190  
**Date:** Tuesday 4 February 2025 12 – 3 pm  
**Location:** Level 1 Meeting Room No. 1.01 (Florentine), 40 Elizabeth Street, Hobart  
(entrance via Collins Street)

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### PRESENT

**Board**

- Mr Andrew Paul (Chairperson)
- Mr Wes Ford (Member) (via Teams)
- Mr Mark Gifford (Member) (via Teams)
- Dr Ian Cresswell (Member)
- Ms Rosanna Coombes (Member) (via Teams)  
(Stepped out of the meeting for item 190.8)
- Dr Therese Flapper (Deputy Member) (via Teams)

**Other attendees**

- Ms Fionna Bourne (Manager, Environmental Engagement, EPA)
- Ms Cindy Ong (Acting Executive Director, Environmental Assessments, EPA)
- Ms Kerryne Barwick (Principal Legal Officer, EPA)

### 190.1 Apologies

Ms Helen Mulligan (Manager, Assessments Branch, EPA) was an apology for meeting number 190.

### General Board Business

#### 190.2 Minutes of Board meetings

- a. Meeting no. 189 held on 21 January 2025

The Board resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of meeting 189 of the EPA Board held on Tuesday 21 January 2024.

#### 190.3 Board decision registers.

- a) Board Decision Register

The Board noted the Board Decision Register, noting two minor typographical errors which were corrected.

- b) Out of Session Decision Register

The Board noted that as no out of session decisions had been made since the Board meeting, an out of session Decision Register was not circulated for this meeting.

#### **190.4 Declaration of Interests**

Ms Rosanna Coombes (Member) is acting in an Executive role within City of Launceston and therefore will not participate in the discussion and decision making for item 190.8 Recycal Pty Ltd – Response to Application for Environmental Improvement Programme and will leave the meeting for this item.

Dr Therese Flapper (Deputy Member) will act in the place of Ms Rosanna Coombes for item 190.8 Recycal Pty Ltd – Response to Application for Environmental Improvement Programme.

#### **190.5 Delegations**

The Board noted there had been no decisions made under delegation since the previous meeting.

#### **190.6 Actions arising**

The Board noted the actions arising table and requested an additional action from meeting 189 – that the draft request for advice from the Office of the Solicitor General be circulated to the Board for comment prior to finalization - be added to the table.

#### **190.7 Standing action items**

The Board noted the Standing Action item list and that the Assessment Guidelines Review will be delayed until the finalization of the EPA Assessment Framework Review.

#### **Items for Decision**

##### **190.8 Recycal Pty Ltd – Response to Application for Environmental Improvement Programme\***

NOTE: Ms Rosanna Coombes stepped out of the meeting for this agenda item and Dr Therese Flapper, as a Deputy Board member acted in her place.

The Board discussed and considered the information and advice they had been provided in relation to the request from Recycal Pty Ltd to enter an Environmental Improvement Programme (EIP) under section 39 of the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* (the Act).

After careful consideration of the legislative requirements and framework within which an EIP operates, and the current circumstances of the Recycal site, the Board formed the view that an EIP was not the appropriate mechanism to deal with and manage the complex issues at the site going forward.

A letter advising Recycal Pty Ltd of its decision is to be prepared for the Chair's signature and circulated to the Board members for comment prior to finalization.

The Board resolved to:

- Not enter into an EIP with Recycal Pty Ltd following extensive consideration of a range of matters and advice.
- Advise Recycal Pty Ltd of its decision by letter to be signed by the Chair.

#### **Items for Noting**

##### **190.9 TasWater Nutrient Offset Proposal**

The Board took the information submitted by TasWater on its nutrient offset proposal as read. It noted that if the project was to go ahead that it would occur in the City of Launceston Council area, but at this stage the Board's consideration of the information does not give rise to a conflict of interest for Ms Rosanna Coombes.

The Board noted that the proposal is based on the model used in Queensland, and that Tasmania currently does not have any nutrient offset policy for waterways as the current State Policy on Water Quality Management does not cover it. In addition, the Board noted that for the proposal to progress further comprehensive modelling in the South Esk River catchment and a trial would need to occur. Recognising the significant expertise on nutrient transfer within the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers catchments held by the

Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers (TEER) Program, the Board would like to see their expertise brought into the process for the development of the proposal.

It was agreed that the EPA would forward the link to the Tamar Estuary and Esk Rivers Program website, and the 2024 kanamaluka/Tamar Estuary Report Card to the Board members for their information.

#### **190.10 Assessments in progress, other assessment caseload**

The Board noted that there was no update to the Assessments in progress and other caseload since the previous meeting.

#### **190.11 Media releases – <https://epa.tas.gov.au/epa/news nil>**

#### **190.12 Correspondence**

Independent Brewers Association – National Container Deposit Scheme Harmonisation Project

The Board noted the correspondence and requested a courtesy response be prepared for the signature of the Director noting that the EPA has no policy setting role in this instance.

#### **190.13 Any other business**

The Chair, on behalf of the Board congratulated Mr Wes Ford on his imminent retirement and sincerely thanked him for his leadership in the operations of the Board and the EPA organization as a whole and wished him all the best for the next phase in his life. Further the Chair acknowledged the level of esteem that Mr Wes Ford was held in the wider State Service and acknowledged his leadership and extensive knowledge would be missed.

#### **190.14 Review of meeting**

Next meeting: **Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 12 noon**

**Minutes endorsed by:**



Andrew Paul

**CHAIRPERSON**

**BOARD OF THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY**

DATE: 4 March 2025