

EPA Monitor

your update on EPA news and information



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EPA welcomes new Minister

On 24 March, Premier Mike Rann announced the Hon. Paul Caica as the new Minister for Environment and Conservation.

The EPA has welcomed the new Minister and very much looks forward to working with him.

In 2002, Hon. Paul Caica was elected to the South Australian Parliament as the Member for Colton (which covers the western suburban coastal suburbs of Henley Beach, Henley Beach South, Grange, Fulham, Fulham Gardens, Kidman Park and parts of Seaton, Findon and Lockleys).

Hon. Paul Caica is also Minister for the River Murray and Minister for Water.



Hon. Paul Caica

New 10 cent labels for drink containers

28 February 2010 concluded the 18 month transitional period given to the beverage industry to change the refund marking on labels from 5 cents to 10 cents. The Container Deposit Legislation (CDL) team worked closely with major retailers to ensure 5 cent labelled beverages would not be offered for sale from 1 March 2010.

So far this financial year, CDL compliance staff have removed more than 57,000 non-permitted containers (representing approximately 750 different products) from retail shelves. In the absence of this compliance activity it can be expected that these containers would likely have been returned for a refund, without being eligible for that refund.

The CDL team has observed a steady increase in recent months in the numbers of containers bearing the 10 cent refund statement, increasing from around 35% in December with compliance rates now expected to be close to 100%, with major retailers being fully compliant.

More information on the container deposit scheme can be found at www.epa.sa.gov.au

Australia-wide NPI results released

New data on Australia's pollution has been added to the National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) website.

The NPI is an internet database which displays information on 93 substances emitted by industrial facilities and commercial, transport and household activities Australia-wide.

For South Australia, 447 reports have been published including 25 new reporting facilities. The new national data shows that 3.4% of the top emitters of an NPI listed substance in 2008-2009 were South Australians.

The database has new enhancements such as linking in with Google Maps, and a new layout to make searching the data easier.

The new data is freely available on the NPI website at www.npi.gov.au

Reporting obligations on pollutants

The EPA has produced new information to help businesses determine if they should be reporting to the NPI.

The EPA has developed a brochure for businesses which provides details of the NPI thresholds and guidance on how to submit NPI reports to the EPA.

Businesses must report to the NPI if their facility exceeds any of the NPI thresholds for use of listed chemical substances, burning of fuel or waste, electrical consumption and total nitrogen and phosphorus to water.

To determine whether you are required to report to the NPI, please visit www.epa.sa.gov.au/about_epa/whats_new

EPA air monitoring

The EPA conducts air quality monitoring across South Australia and has monitoring stations at Christies Beach, Netley, Elizabeth Downs, Kensington Gardens, Port Pirie, Whyalla, Angaston and Mount Gambier.

The EPA has developed an air quality monitoring plan which identifies the critical areas of the State where communities may be impacted from primary emissions or secondary pollutants such as ozone.

In addition to planned monitoring, the EPA conducts short term monitoring to regulate issues arising from industry emissions or contaminated sites.

More information on the EPA's air monitoring programs can be found at www.epa.sa.gov.au



EPA Air Quality experts John Agar and Christopher Powell

Consulting with you on Waste to Resources

In mid-2010, the EPA will begin liaising with the waste industry and local government via workshops to progress the implementation of the new *Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy* (EPP).

The new EPP is due to come into effect on 1 September 2010, with different parts of the EPP coming into effect in stages over the following 3 years.

The EPA and Zero Waste SA (ZWSA) are working together to implement the EPP, including the provision of guidance materials on what facilities may be approved as resource recovery facilities, resource recovery processing requirements, and what will constitute reasonable behaviour in avoiding banned wastes going to landfill.

Once implemented, the new Policy will include:

- prohibiting the disposal of certain waste types to landfill, with fines of up to \$30,000
- prohibiting the unlawful disposal or stockpiling of waste, with fines up to \$250,000
- requirements that most waste produced in metropolitan Adelaide not be disposed of to landfill unless it has first been subject to resource recovery
- standards required to be met by all waste transporters
- obligations relating to medical waste
- opportunities for standardised waste practices within industry sectors using codes of practice
- enhanced transparency of waste management plans and guidelines considered by the EPA when determining environmental authorisations or development applications.

The EPA and ZWSA look forward to working with local government and the waste industry to ensure broader community and industry awareness of landfill bans and obligations under the EPP.

For more information, please contact Tiana Nairn on (08) 8204 2096.

News from the EPA Board

At its March meeting, the Board finalised its consultation program for 2010. On 14 and 15 September this year, the Board will travel to Port Lincoln to host a public consultation to discuss environmental issues directly with the local community. In past years the Board has travelled to Mount Gambier, Port Pirie and the Riverland.

As part of its consultation program, the Board will also meet with a range of other agencies such as the Department of Planning and Local Government and also the Water Security Commissioner.

Plans for the Board's 2010 Round-table have progressed with the proposed theme to be 'Getting the balance right'. This theme will focus on Section 10 of the *Environment Protection Act (1993)* which requires the EPA to promote ecologically sustainable development. While the EPA has sought to achieve the right balance between economic, environmental and social factors, the Board will seek the views of our stakeholders on whether currently, we have this balance right. It is proposed that presentations and debate will come from a panel of high profile spokespeople which can represent each of these perspectives.

Also at its March meeting, the Board discussed the SA EPA's implications from the Victorian Ombudsman's Report regarding the Brookland Greens Estate and the landfill gas issue. The Board were updated on current reform initiatives underway at the SA EPA and will next month consider the EPA's influence on the planning system.

Cheryl Bart AO (Presiding Member of the EPA Board) has also been appointed as the Chair of the Alcohol Education and Rehabilitation Foundation.

To find out more about the EPA Board, please visit www.epa.sa.gov.au/epa_board

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