

EPA Monitor

your update on EPA
news and information



16 December 2009

Welcome to the third edition of EPA Monitor, where we celebrate the launch of the new EPA Sustainability Licence (its previous working title was Corporate Licence).

In late November, the Minister for Environment and Conservation Jay Weatherill announced a new EPA licensing regime aimed at improving environmentally sustainable practices amongst industry.

Under the new system, businesses who go beyond compliance and commit to reducing their use of resources and their impact on the local environment may be awarded a Sustainability Licence.

The new licence combines the standard EPA statutory licence's enforceable conditions with a voluntary sustainability agreement. This agreement outlines the company's public commitment to reducing their impact on the local environment. To be eligible, companies will need to demonstrate not only a clear commitment to improving their environmental performance, but also a commitment to building and maintaining relationships with their local communities.

The new licence was developed after significant consultation with South Australian industry including our Board's Roundtable with industry in June. We are excited that our first licence has now been awarded and we are looking forward to others following soon.

To find out more about the EPA's new Sustainability Licences, visit www.epa.sa.gov.au and follow the link from our 'what's new' section.

Helen Fulcher
Chief Executive

New Castalloy receives the first Sustainability Licence

On 26 November 2009, the Minister for Environment and Conservation Jay Weatherill and EPA Presiding Member Cheryl Bart AO presented New Castalloy with the first South Australian EPA Sustainability Licence.

Under its new licence New Castalloy will work to:

- reduce the use of water
- develop a program to supply high quality wastewater to the City of West Torrens for watering parks and gardens
- further improve energy efficiency, including lighting
- investigate recycling of foundry sand
- continue to work with the local community to address environmental concerns.

New Castalloy makes 90% of the wheels for high end Harley Davidson motorbikes. It's surrounded by residential housing in Plympton and has significantly reduced its noise and odour emissions over the last



Above (L-R): New Castalloy Managing Director Michael Tamasi, Minister for Environment & Conservation Hon. Jay Weatherill and EPA Presiding Member Cheryl Bart AO

5 years. It has actively involved its workforce in finding solutions to improve its practice and has been responsive to local community concerns.

Compliance and Enforcement guidelines

The Sustainability Licence is fundamentally underpinned by strong compliance guidelines and we've just released our statement on these: "Firm but fair".

While the EPA prefers to work cooperatively with industry, we will use our regulatory powers to ensure any harm to the environment is minimised.

A suite of compliance and enforcement tools is available to the EPA, ranging from cautionary advice and formal warnings and civil penalties, to court action which may result in a significant fine.

'Compliance and enforcement: regulatory options and tools' is available via the EPA website (www.epa.sa.gov.au)

New waste derived fill guidelines

A new Standard for the production and development of waste derived fill, and an explanatory brochure, will be available on the EPA website in the New Year. The Standard provides businesses in the waste sector with clear and consistent guidance on materials suitable to be used as waste derived fill and the testing and approval requirements to prove fit for purpose.

The Standard has been developed as a principles-based document so that it covers as many areas and options as possible, allowing the industry to continue to seek innovative approaches to the reuse of waste. Numerous organisations including CSIRO, CRC CARE, the SA Department of Health, Safework SA and NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water provided technical input and peer review.

For more information, contact the EPA on (08) 8204 2004 and watch our website in the new year.

Your views on the EPA's Licence Fee Structure

Currently we are improving our licence fee system (LFS) and may be recommending possible changes to the Environment Protection Regulations 2009. The principles of user pays and polluter pays on which the LFS are based are considered sound and are not included in the scope of the review.

We committed to reviewing our LFS months after its first year of operation and we welcomed your views on where our system could be improved via an online survey which closed 15 December 2009. We will now review all feedback received and provide a consolidated response in early 2010.

For more information, please contact Anne Ellson on 08 8204 8525 or anne.ellson@epa.sa.gov.au

SA's recycling rate increases to 77.7%

The latest figures from South Australia's container deposit scheme - the only one of its type in the nation - show that return rates have increased significantly in the first full year since the refund increased from 5 cents to 10 cents.

More than 592.5 million containers were returned in the year from 1 September 2008 to 31 August 2009, with people returning containers for recycling pocketing more than \$59.25 million in refunds. This was significantly more than in the previous year, when 515 million containers were returned for five cents and collectors took home \$25.7 million.

The total number of containers returned in the first full year of the 10 cent refund is 76.8 million more than in 2007-08, equating to 48,417 tonnes of containers not going to landfill.

Container deposits were introduced in South Australia in 1977 and are an example of South Australia's ongoing environmental leadership. Northern Territory is also setting up a container deposit system.

National Waste Overview report

The National Waste Overview 2009 report, released by the federal Environment Protection and Heritage Council, contains some interesting facts about the nation's waste profile, and where South Australia sits nationally. Australians generated 43,777,000 tonnes of waste in 2006-07, with South Australia boasting the second highest rate for diverting waste from landfill, and the second highest recycling rate, behind only the Australian Capital Territory.

However, there is room for improvement in the recycling of commercial and industrial materials, where South Australia ranks fifth among the States and Territories.

The report contains a timely reminder that even with our relatively good performance, further action is needed: if waste generation grows at 4.5 per cent per year, then Australia will be generating 81,072,593 tonnes by 2020-21. It also shows the increasing importance that the community places on waste management, with 99 per cent of households undertaking recycling, 80 per cent of employees wanting to see more recycling in the workplace, and national litter levels trending downwards.

EPA win at Premier's awards

This year the EPA had two finalists in the prestigious Premier's Awards 2009, which coincide with Public Sector Week in November and showcase excellence in public sector innovation.

The Greywater Treatment Project, led by Paul De Ionno, won the category of *Fostering Creativity and Innovation* and Bryce Routley was an individual finalist for his work with Ecomapping. The awards were presented by the Premier at a ceremony held on Thursday 26 November.

The Greywater Treatment Project involved introducing greywater management requirements for vessels as part of a Code of Practice for vessel and vessel facility management, resulting in South Australia being the first jurisdiction anywhere in the world to introduce the option of 'on-board' greywater treatment.

Up to 500 million litres of greywater from vessels on the River Murray (e.g. houseboats) has previously been discharged in an untreated state back into the river, creating significant environmental and public health risks.

The EPA joined forces with Standards Australia to develop and fast track an Australian Standard for the management of on-board greywater treatment systems for river vessels. Interest in the EPA code and greywater treatment technology has been expressed by government and industry in NSW, Victoria, Canada, USA, Europe and New Zealand.



Above: (L-R) Peter Dolan (EPA), Paul De Ionno (EPA), Helen Fulcher (EPA), Peter Scott (EPA), Andrew Soloman (EPA) accept the EPA's award for *Fostering Creativity and Innovation*.

New-look EPA website

The EPA website has been revamped, with a fresh new look, new sections, and expanded search facilities. Information on the site is now organised under major stakeholder groupings - householders, businesses, licensees and local government. These sections feature information from our previous website, as well as new sections of information on areas such as setting up a new business, resources for local government, and information for radiation licensees.

The website was redeveloped based on input from our stakeholders via surveys and focus groups, as well as anecdotal feedback. We also have a new 'search for a document' function and shortcuts to

commonly-visited or requested pages. We'll be continuing to improve and update the site, so if you have any ideas or feedback, we'd like to hear it.

You can email our web team at webadmin@epa.sa.gov.au

Wang Wang and Funi are going green

The EPA has inspected Giant Pandas Wang Wang and Funi's new \$8 million state-of-the-art enclosure at Adelaide Zoo.

Recently the EPA's Peter Scott was invited to inspect the progress of the enclosure and check its compliance with the Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003. The enclosure has been designed and built so that all rainfall falling in the enclosure is filtered before going to sewer ensuring that no pollution enters the River Torrens.

The enclosure includes extensive rain gardens on roof areas to regulate temperature inside and harvest rain in large underground tanks for later use. Rainfall runoff from footpaths and carparks is filtered and cleaned through Class 1 oil/water separators before leaving the site and will comply with the EPA's draft Industrial, Retail and Commercial Code of Practice.



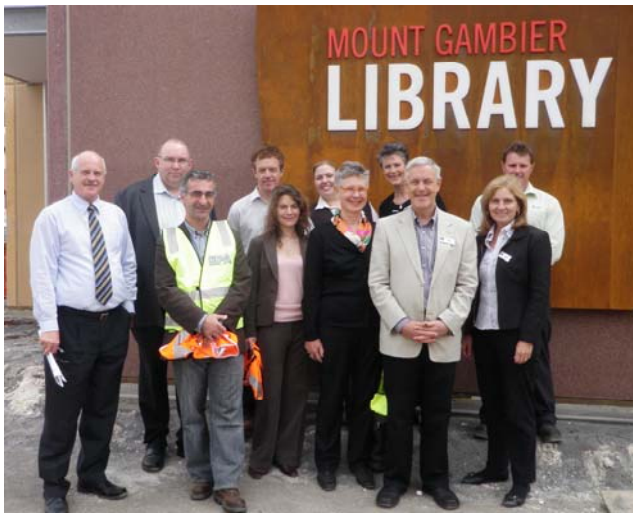
Above(L-R): Nick Pearson (HASSEL), Peter Scott (EPA) and Emily Corkhill (EPA) in the giant panda enclosure at Adelaide Zoo.

EPA Board visits Mount Gambier

On 19 and 20 October, the EPA Board and some Directors visited Mount Gambier to host a community consultation and visit various sites in the region.

Approximately 50 people attended the consultation and the hot topics included landfill closures, storm water contamination, Lake Bonney water quality, urban environmental noise issues, EPA's role in environmental water monitoring, wood waste burn off, prohibition of CFL to landfill and access to EPA reporting and monitoring information.

While in the region the Board took the opportunity to visit Kimberly-Clark Australia Ltd, Lake Bonney, Kraft and The City of Mount Gambier.



Above: The EPA Board and Executive at the new Mount Gambier Library which incorporates best practice environmental features.

EPA reappointed to ACC

The EPA's Director of Science and Sustainability, Peter Dolan, has been reappointed to the Aquaculture Advisory Committee (AAC) for a further three years. The AAC is a statutory body under the Aquaculture Act 2001, formed to advise the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries on matters relating to aquaculture. The committee also advises on the administration of the Act and the development of policies under the Act.

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