



A message from the Acting Chief Executive

In November last year, I took over the reins as Acting Chief Executive and Chair of the EPA following Paul Vogel's departure. As many of you would be aware, Paul resigned from the SA EPA to take up the position of Chairman of the WA EPA.



While it has been a privilege to act as the EPA's CE, my tenure in this role is only short-term. The Government will shortly make the Chief Executive appointment permanent and I will be heading the organisation through the transition period only.

There have been some exciting new changes in the EPA within the last few months. In February, the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Gail Gago introduced to Parliament a Bill to separate the roles of EPA Chair and Chief Executive.

Up until now, the roles of Chair and CE have been filled by the same person. This new Bill will be beneficial to the EPA as it will reinforce the EPA's independence in fulfilling its statutory functions and guide efficient operation by having an independent Chair who can oversee the governance of the Board. The new Bill will allow the Chief Executive to focus on thorough advice and implementation of board decisions.

As you may know, I am also the Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Heritage. Balancing both duties has been a rewarding and challenging experience however I have decided to appoint a Deputy Chief Executive to assist me with the day-to-day operation of the organisation. Tony Circelli (formerly EPA Director of Regulation and Compliance) has been appointed as Deputy Chief Executive of the EPA until a permanent Chief Executive has been appointed.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and I welcome any feedback emailed to terry.clark@epa.sa.gov.au

Allan Holmes
Acting Chief Executive
Environment Protection Authority

EPA to regulate solarium industry

In March, new regulations came into force that require all solarium owners and operators to comply with strict regulations or face fines of up to \$50,000 or five years jail. The regulations have been imposed due to concerns over the health risks associated with solariums.

The regulations:

- Prohibit persons under the ages of 18
- Require the industry to display health warnings that state solariums can cause skin cancer
- Prohibit the use of solariums for people with very fair skin
- Require all operators to receive training in the safe operation of a solarium
- Require clients to be supervised by an operator
- Place restrictions on the frequency and duration of tanning sessions.

Drink container deposit to increase to 10 cents

The State Government is encouraging South Australians to recycle more by increasing the deposit on drink containers to 10 cents.

While South Australia continues to lead the nation on the recycling of drink containers, there are still 8000 tonnes-or more than 185 million containers-going to landfill. The deposit increase will be the first since the recycling scheme was introduced in 1977.

Adelaide Coastal Waters Study

A comprehensive study on Adelaide's coastal waters has been released by the Minister for Environment and Conservation, Gail Gago.

The Adelaide Coastal Waters Study was initiated in 2001 by the EPA in response to concerns over the declining health of Adelaide's coastal waters and the loss of more than 5000 hectares of seagrass.

The findings of the study indicate:

- nutrient-rich inputs have caused loss of seagrass along the Adelaide coastline.
- high levels of suspended solids from stormwater flows and beach dredging have also impaired the coastal water quality.

The study focussed on the areas of Gulf St Vincent from Port Gawler in the north to Sellicks Beach in the South and extended approximately 20km offshore.

The study will assist experts to understand the ecosystem of the Adelaide near-shore coastal environment and enable them to better manage this area.

To view the report, visit www.epa.sa.gov.au

Changes to the National Pollutant Inventory in SA

The National Pollutant Inventory (NPI) is a database that provides information on the pollutants being emitted to air, land and water from a range of industrial, commercial, transport and household activities.

After nine years of operation with voluntary reporting, the NPI now has mandatory reporting requirements. These changes to the NPI have resulted in the release of the *Environment Protection (National Pollutant Inventory) Policy 2008* (NPI EPP) which was brought into effect on 31 March 2008. The NPI EPP reiterates the national legislation, including the changes made in 2007 and introduces mandatory provisions on industry reporting requirements. Further information on the changes can be found at www.epa.sa.gov.au/npi_legislation.html

While the mandatory provisions apply for the 2007/2008 reporting period, the changes made to the national legislation (including the inclusion of transfers and the addition of three new substances) will not be enforced until next year.

Marine Safety Conference 2008

In May, the National Marine Safety Committee will host a conference on Marine Safety. The conference will be held at the Hilton Adelaide and highlights international keynote speakers.

Paul De Ionno (EPA Senior Pollution Coordinator) will attend the conference to speak about the management of wastewater on in-land vessels and the latest in vessel greywater treatment technology.

EPA to regulate desalination plants

The State Government has announced that the EPA will regulate desalination plants under specific legislative provisions which are currently being developed.

The proposed regulations will take into consideration the volume, type of discharge and impact on the environment from the plant.

The EPA intends to licence desalination plants that discharge:

- into marine waters more than 50KL per day containing chemical additives
- into marine waters more than 500KL per day without chemical additives, or
- more than 50KL per day onto land or inland waters regardless of chemical use.

Ecomapping CD ROM

The EPA is developing a CD ROM which helps businesses recognise their environmental impacts. The CD ROM assists businesses to become more sustainable by giving viewers step-by-step guidance on how to develop their own environmental management system via the Ecomapping method.

The CD ROM is being developed for the Motor Trade Association (MTA) for national distribution. The CD ROM will also be made available on the EPA website.

Guidelines for Separation Distances

The EPA has released a set of guidelines which assist new or expanding businesses to locate their operations at an appropriate distance away from neighbouring dwellings.

The Guidelines for Separation Distances assist industry to minimise the impact of their operations on neighbours. To view the guidelines, visit www.epa.sa.gov.au/guidelines.html

Trial of greywater treatment systems along River Murray

The EPA is working with the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (SAMDB NRM), Houseboat Hires Association and the Boating Industry Association to trial greywater treatment systems on vessels along the River Murray.

8 commercial houseboats were chosen to test the greywater treatment systems, which are anticipated to reduce environmental and public health risks associated with discharging vessel greywater into the marine environment. Commercial houseboats were chosen to undertake the trial due to the constant use of water by each houseboat.

SOE update

The fifth State of the Environment Report for South Australia will be released in November 2008. The report provides a snapshot on the condition of our environment, looks at how we are currently responding to the many pressures on our environment and most importantly provides independent advice to Government on how we, as a society, could be doing things better.

The report covers the themes of Atmosphere, Inland Waters, Coasts and the Sea, Land, Biodiversity, Human Settlements and Heritage. The report is based on the collection, evaluation and review of scientifically valid indicator data and as such provides a rigorous assessment and valuable information resource to the community. If you would like further information on the report or would like to provide input to the development of the report, please contact the Project Manager, Steven Mudge on (08) 8204 9924.

New noise laws

On 31 March, new noise laws came into effect which will make managing and resolving neighbour noise disputes easier and will give communities and industries more consistent guidelines.

The new laws set clear procedures for measuring noise, making it easier for councils, police and the EPA to assess noise complaints.

For further information, visit www.epa.sa.gov.au

For more information about any of the articles in this newsletter contact:

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