



A farewell message from the Chief Executive

As many of you know, I am heading back to WA to take up the position of Chairman of the EPA.

For me and my family our 5 years in SA has been wonderful – a challenging and rewarding job, many new friends, and a greater appreciation of the arts and fine SA wine!

It has been a privilege to lead the EPA as inaugural CEO and Chairman through what has been (and still is) a significant change program that aims at positioning the EPA so that 'smart' environmental regulation can play its part in the transition to a more sustainable SA.

From time to time, the nature of environmental regulation brings us into conflict with business, the public and sometimes government itself! As an independent regulator with substantial decision-making powers and strong environmental laws and penalties, it is an inescapable fact that we will be more closely scrutinised and more frequently criticised than almost any arm of government.

That is why our change program, with strong support from the EPA Board, has focussed on a) improving our working relationships with our key stakeholders, b) moving towards a more risk-based, outcome-focussed approach to environmental regulation and, c) enhancing understanding of what we do, how we do it and importantly, why we do it.

This goes to the heart of the culture of the EPA and is something to which we are paying close attention, since if our decisions and actions are evidence-based, consistent, transparent and timely, then our reputation as a fair and credible regulator will be enhanced.

I am fortunate to have had supportive Ministers and Board and an organisation full of energetic, passionate and committed people who are all striving to make this a great organisation in a sustainable SA.

To all of you, a heartfelt thanks and very best wishes for the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Paul Vogel', is written over a horizontal line.

Paul Vogel

Kangaroo Island Business Sustainability Program

A new program to help small businesses on Kangaroo Island identify areas where they can reduce costs and environmental impacts was launched in mid September.

Forty island businesses are taking part in the 12-month Business Sustainability program which involves audits, workshops and training in areas of waste, water and energy management, as well as chemical use and transport.

The aim of the program is to assist businesses to identify efficiencies for financial and environmental benefits with a particular emphasis on energy, water and waste management.

Seagrass diving on the Yorke Peninsula

In 2004, the Northern and Yorke NRM Board sponsored the EPA to undertake aerial photography of seagrass on the western side of the Yorke Peninsula. In late August 2007, EPA marine scientists dived at Wallaroo Bay, Moonta Bay and Port Broughton to verify the density of seagrass from the air in 2004. The main aim of the project was to inspect the health of seagrass beds along the Yorke Peninsula.

EPA video streaming

The EPA is now using video streaming to communicate with stakeholders. This form of communication is environmentally friendly and enables stakeholders to view information in a fast and efficient manner. To view EPA news items, visit www.epa.sa.gov.au

Houseboat audits

The EPA began auditing houseboats along the River Murray in May 2007 to ensure houseboat were compliant with the Code of Practice for Vessels on Inland Waters (2003). The Code requires houseboats to have a blackwater disposal system that meets specified standards. The audit was conducted over two days and began in the Renmark region.

In total, 50 houseboats were audited, revealing only two vessels complied with the Code of Practice, and 31 had a technical breach of some kind. However, all audited vessels maintained a blackwater disposal system of some sort. Seventeen vessels were unattended, requiring officers to conduct an inspection at a later date.

Another houseboat audit will be conducted in November 2007.

EPA accredited licence

On 16 August, the EPA awarded its first accredited licence to The Marina Hindmarsh Island. The Marina received accreditation for best practice environmental management standards.

The accredited licence entitles businesses to a 50 percent reduction in EPA licence fees, less prescriptive licence conditions and a minimum 5-year licence with an assurance of no change to licence conditions.

The Marina Hindmarsh Island is the first business in South Australia and the first Marina in Australia to receive an accredited licence

Pesticide handbooks

The EPA's Watershed Protection Office has released a set of handbooks to assist South Australian industries and land holders use pesticides safely and efficiently.

Three handbooks were developed in consultation with industry and provide necessary advice on how to reduce the environmental impacts from spraying pesticides.

To receive a copy of the handbooks, visit www.epa.sa.gov.au or phone the EPA on (08) 8139 9900.

EPA Board public consultation in Mount Gambier

The EPA Board will travel to Mount Gambier on 20 November to host a public meeting. The meeting will give residents an opportunity to discuss local environmental concerns with the EPA Board.

EPA regulatory monitoring requirements

In late August, the EPA held presentations on new regulatory monitoring requirements. The EPA is working to improve imposed licensee monitoring requirements so that is risk based, cost effective and outcome focussed.

The new requirements aim to remove monitoring from low risk activities and facilities, reduce independent verification requirements and reduce report frequency in line with risk.

To receive a DVD copy of this presentation, contact Terry Clark on (08) 8204 9221 or email terry.clark@epa.sa.gov.au

Dust suppression forums

The EPA and SA Water have hosted forums on water efficient methods of dust suppression. The forum was held for companies that are licensed under the Environment Protection Act (1993) and are considered to generate significant levels of fugitive dust as part of their operations.

The forums aimed to give attendees a better understanding of EPA and SA Water requirements to conserve water and suppress dust. The forums also provided the EPA and SA Water with a clearer understanding of the needs and actions of industry when they suppress dust and use water.

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

Terry Clark
Media and Public Affairs Manager
Environment Protection Authority
(08) 8204 9221
terry.clark@epa.sa.gov.au

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