

# EPA Board Communique

19 June 2007



*The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Board Communiqué has been developed to provide information on matters discussed by the Board at its monthly meetings.*

## ***Wingfield precinct visit***

As part of its ongoing consultation and site visits program, the Board toured a number of waste management facilities in the Wingfield precinct prior to its June meeting. This provided an opportunity for the Board to get a closer look at this significant industry and discuss with some operators the issues facing the industry. This information will help inform the work of the newly formed Waste Management Subcommittee of the Board, which is looking into how the EPA currently controls the environmental impacts and management of waste.

## ***Department of Trade and Economic Development (DTED) Business Sustainability Program***

The Board received a presentation from DTED staff on the business sustainability program. This is a cross government program aimed at improving sustainable practices within SA businesses.

Business sustainability is defined as:

*A proactive approach to the long term viability and integrity of a business by optimising resource needs, reducing environmental, energy and social impacts and managing resources without compromising product or service quality, competitiveness or profitability.*

The Board endorsed the concept of a coordinated business sustainability program that integrates and engages with the business sector at an early stage.

## ***EPA Strategic Plan***

The Board reviewed the draft EPA strategic plan and determined to form a small working group of Board members to finalise this document and report back to the July Board meeting. Other Board members will provide their comments to this working group.

## ***Update on climate change strategies***

The Board received an update briefing on climate change strategies noting new developments in this area, including the release of the following reports:

- 1) *Tackling Climate Change - SA's Green House Strategy 2007-2020*
- 2) *Climate Change: Risks and Opportunities* by Thinker-in-residence Professor Stephen Schneider and the Government's response to his report, and
- 3) *Final Report of the Prime Ministerial Task Group on Emissions Trading*

## ***2008 State of the Environment (SoE) Report***

The Board noted an update report on the progress of the 2008 SoE Report and recommended some changes to the proposed structure of the 2008 SoE Report to ensure better internal consistency.

SoE reports, which are published by the EPA every five years, provide scientifically valid assessments of the state or condition of the environment, the pressures that influence this condition and the effectiveness of responses to these pressures.