

*The EPA Board Communique has been developed to provide information on matters discussed by the Board at its monthly meetings.*

### Meeting No. 165: 9 August 2005

Prior to meeting, the EPA Board met with peak environmental associations at a Roundtable lunch. Key issues discussed included:

- a need for strategic and ongoing dialogue between the EPA and the community, to enable discussion of relevant issues and provide feedback
- the EPA's role in State of the Environment Reporting and the SA Climate Change Strategy
- sharing responsibilities for environment protection legislation between the EPA and local government authorities
- marine pests and the roles of relevant State Government agencies in management issues.

#### *Debrief on Roundtable*

Board members noted the range of issues raised by stakeholders, and agreed that issue-based forums are a productive way of engaging stakeholders' views.

Ongoing dialogue with environmental groups is extremely important to ensure that the EPA and its stakeholders remain informed. The EPA's Engagement Strategy will continue to support this process.

#### *Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of the SA Oyster Farming Industry*

The Board considered the final draft of the Code of Practice, which addresses numerous environmental impacts of oyster farming, such as water, noise and odour issues.

The Board recommended that Part Five of the *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003* be amended to recognise the Code. Future relevant Environment Protection Policies, relating to noise and air quality for example, will also recognise the Code.

#### *SA Greenhouse/Climate Change Strategy*

The Board received a presentation from Ms Churchman of the Office of Sustainability, regarding SA's Greenhouse Strategy. Ms Churchman explained projections for climate change in SA, outlined key contributors to energy consumption in the State, the potential for responding to climate change through research and development and innovation, and the development of the SA Greenhouse Strategy.

The Board will further discuss its contribution to the Strategy in September 2005.

#### *Improved Development Application Performance*

Following a comprehensive process review of the EPA's performance in responding to development applications referred under the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, the Board extended congratulations to Development Assessment staff, who have achieved improved efficiency in assessing Development Applications, and reduced the average number of days taken per assessment.