

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

Meeting No. 166: 13 September 2005

ION - Castalloy

The Chair reported to the Board that the EPA issued Castalloy with a 10-year licence, which commenced on 1 September 2005. Castalloy agreed to meet the EPA odour standard of 2 odour units at the site boundary by June 2006, and to meet the EPA noise standard of 50dBA night time/58dBA day noise maximum levels by June 2006.

On 30 August 2005, parties involved in negotiations assembled for the endorsement of the new licence. These included representatives of the local community, the Crown Solicitors' Office, the Environmental Defenders' Office, Finlaysons Solicitors, and senior EPA staff.

Draft Hazardous Waste Strategy

The Board considered the draft Hazardous Waste Strategy for South Australia and endorsed the Strategy for public consultation, following a final editing process.

Allocation of Funds Arising from Prosecutions and other penalties

The Board discussed options for use of funds arising from prosecutions and other penalty amounts. The Board resolved that the monies, which will become part of the Environment Protection Fund (EP Fund), would generally be used on environmental programs throughout the state. However, the Board would also consider exceptions to this general rule on a case-by-case basis, such that monies could be used on environmental programs and activities based within the geographical area to which the prosecution relates but not directly related to the offender. In deciding whether to use monies from penalties in this way, the Board will consider matters including the benefit of the project to the community and the environment, whether the project ameliorates an identified environmental risk or provides for the restoration or enhancement of the local environment, and how the allocation would compare with other types of projects or activities funded by the EP Fund.

Implementation of Long Term Licences

The Board noted the EPA's progress towards implementing longer-term licences of five years. All licensees will shortly receive notification of the Board's decision to implement longer-term licences.

Code of Practice for Environmentally Responsible Pesticide Use

The Board considered the draft Code of Practice for Environmentally Responsible Pesticide Use and resolved that the document should assume the status of a Guideline rather than a Code of Practice. The document will be released to the public.

EPA Position Statement - the role of the EPA in attaining Sustainability

The Board considered the EPA's Position Statement - the role of the EPA in attaining sustainability. The Position Statement has been finalised and will be released to the public.

The Position Statement has been developed over the past year with extensive input from stakeholders, following an initial study produced by Professor Rob Fowler at the University of South Australia. The Position Statement articulates both the legislative and government policy drivers that inform the EPA's role in sustainability, and describes how the EPA exercises its powers and functions to fulfill that role. The statement focuses on two broad areas of interest:

- localised impacts - point source pollution and the legacy of past decisions, and
- wide scale, cumulative impacts of pollution and waste.

It concludes by outlining some of the key challenges facing the EPA in undertaking its role in the transition to sustainability.

2005 EPA Round-Table Report

The Board considered the 2005 EPA Round-Table Report. The EPA's annual Round-Table provides an opportunity for the EPA to share and obtain information with stakeholders about current and emerging issues in environment protection. The 2005 Round-Table focussed on the EPA's *Position Statement - the role of the EPA in attaining Sustainability*. Key themes arising from the Round-Table included the need for:

- the EPA to demonstrate leadership in environment protection
- the EPA to promote a problem-solving approach in order to facilitate better and shared outcomes
- effective and strong regulation
- education, communication and information sharing to be regarded as core EPA business
- partnerships with key interest groups/organisations from government, community and industry to be established or enhanced—a matter of critical importance.

Many of the themes raised by stakeholders have been adopted as priorities in the EPA's 2005-2008 *Strategic Plan*.

The Round-Table Report can be found on the EPA website.

Organisational Change and Performance Improvement Program

The Board noted that the EPA has now embarked on a significant change and performance improvement program, with major activities being undertaken over the next four months. The CE EPA is managing the program with the Corporate Executive Team, assisted by a senior project officer.