



EPA Board Communiqué

13 December 2006

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

Board meeting with Natural Resource Management Council

Board members recently met with members of the Natural Resource Management Council to discuss key strategic issues including the roles and responsibilities of the EPA in natural resource management and the State NRM plan. Also discussed at the meeting was the need for both groups to share information to ensure efficient and effective use of resources. There was mutual agreement that the meeting was an important first step in the EPA's emerging strategic approach to natural resource management.

Round-table 2006

This year's session is planned for April and the focus is on the EPA's role in climate change and engaging business in resource efficiency. The Board has confirmed the program and an attendees list has been finalised.

Environment Protection Fund—use of fine monies

At its September meeting the Board considered the option of using fine monies received through prosecutions to fund specific environmental projects. Principles developed to guide the Board's decision making were endorsed:

- Funds should be used on environmental programs and activities throughout the State and not directly related to the offender.
- In exceptional cases, using funds for programs and activities based in a specific geographical area could be considered but should not be 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 any proposed projects to the community and the environment; whether a 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 Environment Protection Fund.

When considering these principles in relation to Kangaroo Island Council's fine for breaches of the Environment Protection Act, the Board acknowledged existing EPA activities undertaken on KI and determined not to fund further projects at this time.

Greenhouse—South Australian industry information

The EPA is involved with national policy and technical working groups developing a nationally consistent reporting system for greenhouse gas emissions and energy use. At present, industries licensed by the EPA do not provide information on their energy use, and therefore energy related CO₂ emissions. The Board has endorsed an investigation into the practicalities of obtaining annual fuel and energy use information from licensees to assess environmental impacts and greenhouse gas emissions.