

# EPA Board Communiqué

21 March 2006



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

## *Round-table 2006*

Preparations for the EPA's annual Round-table are well advanced. Key stakeholders will meet at the National Wine Centre on 9 May. The theme for this year's Round-table is the EPA's role in 'Tackling Climate Change - South Australia's Greenhouse Strategy', focussing on:

- identifying barriers and exploring opportunities for the industry and energy sectors
- identifying and prioritising key actions and initiatives for the EPA to support and contribute to the proposed industry and energy initiatives of the draft Strategy.

EPA Board Members and Directors will participate in the Round-table.

## *Streamlining the Development Approval Process*

The EPA provides advice on development applications for activities listed under Schedule 21 of the *Development Regulations 1993* (these are activities of environmental significance that require development approval but not an EPA licence). As part of an ongoing performance improvement program, the EPA is working with Planning SA to increase efficiencies in the development assessment process. To that end, following a comprehensive review by the EPA of Schedule 21, the Board will seek agreement from Planning SA for the removal of a number of activities from the schedule, thereby reducing EPA's direct input into individual development applications.

The Board approved the preparation of guidance documents for planning authorities and will recommend to Planning SA the removal of the following activities:

- abrasive blasting
- cattle feedlots
- saleyards
- composting works - production of mushroom or other compost
- materials handling
- aquaculture

The Board will also suggest removing the following activities from Schedule 21:

- animal tracks (ie race tracks)
- emus/ostrich farming within the Mount Lofty Ranges (MLR) and River Murray Water Protection Area (RMWPA)
- deer farming within the MLR and RMWPA

These proposals and future options will be discussed with Planning SA in order to maintain a strategic approach to development assessment.

## *Comparison of South Australian and Victorian EPA functions, resourcing and licensing systems*

As part of an ongoing performance improvement program, the EPA is undertaking a comparison of South Australian and Victorian EPA functions, resourcing and licensing systems. The aim of this work is to provide benchmarks for the EPA to gauge its performance. A report will be provided to the Board.