

EPA Board Communique

21 November 2006



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

Consultation Program 2007

The Board began planning its Consultation Program for 2007. This Program will include visits to regional areas and meetings with stakeholders. The Consultation Program provides the opportunity for the Board to engage in face-to-face dialogue with both stakeholders and the broader community. The feedback gained from this consultation provides an important contribution to the Board's understanding of the impact of EPA operations across the community. Stakeholder involvement also assists the Board in future decision-making and identifying areas for performance improvement.

Extension of the powers of the Environment, Resources and Development (ERD) Court

The Board noted the extended powers of the ERD Court following the proclamation of the *Environment, Resources and Development Court (Jurisdiction) Amendment Act 2006*. The ERD Court now has the ability to impose a fine for an environmental offence of up to \$300,000 and can remand a defendant for sentencing in the District Court where it believes the sentence should be greater than its jurisdictional limits allow it to impose. The content of the Amendment Act was developed through negotiations between the EPA and the Attorney-General's Department and fulfills the Government's 2002 election promise to extend the ERD Court's powers to allow it to impose the full range of penalties provided by the *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

EPA Landfill Guidelines – recommendations from the Board's Landfill Subcommittee

The Board received the final report from its Landfill Subcommittee and endorsed its recommendations. The Board established the Landfill Subcommittee in June 2006 to consider issues related to the implementation of the EPA Landfill Guidelines. The Landfill Guidelines aim to assist landfill operators manage their sites more effectively. The Subcommittee received submissions and convened meetings with stakeholders on the economic, social and environmental impacts of the Landfill Guidelines at the local and regional level. Amongst the Landfill Subcommittee's recommendations endorsed by the Board was that the EPA should exercise discretion when applying Landfill Guidelines implementation timeframes and that it should also have careful regard to local site conditions when making decisions under the Landfill Guidelines. Copies of the Subcommittee's Report will be forwarded to all stakeholders involved in the consultation process. Further information on the Landfill Guidelines and the Subcommittee's Report is available on the EPA's website at http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/latest_news.html

Regulatory Reform within the South Australian EPA

The Board approved the release of the report *Regulatory Reform within the South Australian EPA*. This report outlines the principles of regulatory reform adopted by the EPA, gives examples of reform initiatives already delivered by the organisation and outlines areas for future regulatory reform within the EPA. It demonstrates the EPA's achievements to date in reducing the administrative burden on

stakeholders in its pursuit of more effective and efficient environmental regulation.

Code of Practice for Vessel and Facility Management: Marine and Inland Waters

The Board endorsed the Code of Practice for Vessel and Facility Management: Marine and Inland Waters and recommended to the Minister for Environment and Conservation that it be listed in the Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003. This Code of Practice embraces the prevention of pollution that may arise from the construction, use and maintenance of vessels and related facilities. The EPA undertook extensive consultation with stakeholders in developing this Code.