

# EPA Board Communique

12 December 2006



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

## ***Consultation with Environment Groups***

Prior to its December meeting the Board met with peak environmental associations at a Round-table lunch. Ongoing dialogue with environmental groups is a key part of the Board's commitment to consultation with key stakeholder groups and extremely important in ensuring that the EPA and its stakeholders remain informed.

Some of the issues discussed at the Round-table lunch included:

- land use issues including the regulation and management of landfill sites, legacy problems arising from bad planning decisions and the need to finalise the separation distance guidelines
- issues concerning the EPA's role and responsibilities, including the EPA's role in natural resource management and biodiversity and clarifying the interface with other related agencies (ie the Department for Environment & Heritage, Zero Waste SA and Natural Resources Management Boards)
- communication and consultation issues with stakeholders, interest groups and the general community and increasing opportunities for stakeholder groups to provide input to the EPA.

## ***Development of the Industry Compliance Auditing System***

The Board noted a paper on the development of an industry compliance auditing system. The EPA uses compliance audits as one of a suite of tools for assessing the extent to which an individual or organisation is complying with its legal requirements. Whilst audits in the past have generally been in response to issues, and therefore varied in structure, this project has developed a uniform framework and management system for planning and conducting compliance audits.

## ***Strategic Directions for Air Quality in South Australia***

The Board noted an information paper on the strategic direction for air quality in South Australia. This paper outlined National and State air quality improvement initiatives and the current issues surrounding air quality in South Australia. Even though South Australia's air quality is generally good there is still a need to monitor pollution levels and maintain and improve air quality. To that end the EPA will be developing a Strategic Plan for Air Quality in South Australia early in 2007. This will review the current state of air quality in the State, examine trends and emerging problems and develop strategies to address air quality issues over the next decade and beyond.

## ***Presentation from Mr Mick Bourke, Chairman of the Victorian EPA***

The Board received a presentation from Mr Mick Bourke, Chairman of the Victorian EPA. Mr Bourke presented on the financial, administrative and strategic management arrangements for environmental protection in Victoria. The Board expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to explore how environmental protection operated in another jurisdiction and will incorporate some of these insights into their strategic planning session in early 2007.