

EPA Board Communique

20 & 21 November 2007



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

The EPA Board held two meetings in November 2007. The first of these was in Mt Gambier whilst undertaking a regional consultation in the area and the second was held the following day in Adelaide to finalise outstanding Board business.

Regional visit to Mt Gambier

As a part of the EPA Board's consultation program the Board travelled to Mt Gambier on 20 November 2007. In the morning they visited:

- the Penola Pulp Mill site
- Carter Holt Harvey (and particularly its newly installed Wet Electro-Static Precipitator (WESP))
- Conroe Heights (to view stormwater recycling in the area)
- Forestry SA's new 5 star energy rated building

In the afternoon the Board held a public meeting attended by over 60 people from local industry, councils, government agencies and the general community to discuss the role of the EPA and local issues of concern.

These sessions are extremely beneficial to all participants and give the Board an opportunity to hear directly from stakeholders about environment protection matters of importance to them.

Board's 2008 Consultation and Site visit program

The Board endorsed its program of consultations and site visits for 2008.

The Board's consultation program assists the EPA to assess its performance in administering the Act and contributes to the review and refinement of the EPA's priorities. Participants from the general community, industry and local and state government agencies join members of the Board to discuss the management of the environment in South Australia, to comment on the current approach and activities of the EPA, and to suggest improvements.

Finalisation of the Guidelines for Separation Distances

The Board approved the finalisation and publication of the *Guidelines for Separation Distances*.

These Guidelines give a recommended separation distance for a range of new or expanding industries to ensure the environmental impact on neighbouring residential sites is minimised. They are used by the EPA, planning authorities, developers, planning consultants and the community in assessing development applications for new or expanding development.

These Guidelines will be available shortly on the EPA's website at

<http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/>