

EPA Board Communique

11 December 2007



The Environment Protection Authority (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 environmental groups at a round-table lunch. Such meetings are an important part of the Board's ongoing consultation program with community and industry groups. They allow the Board to hear first hand from these groups on issues of concern and to provide information on the EPA's work in these areas.

Amongst the issues discussed at the round-table lunch were:

- the impacts of stormwater, waste water and industry discharges into the waters of Gulf St Vincent
- the review of container deposit legislation and possibly extending this type of scheme to cover other waste products, for example phones, batteries and fluorescent lights
- the current methods for monitoring licensed sites and opportunities to improve them.

Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of the SA Abalone Aquaculture Industry

The Board endorsed the Code of Practice for the Environmental Management of the South Australian Abalone Aquaculture Industry.

This Code provides advice to abalone farmers on how they can meet their environmental obligations. It applies to the management of all relevant environmental issues associated with land-based and sea-based abalone farming within South Australia.

The EPA consulted widely with stakeholders in developing the Code of Practice, which will be available on the EPA's website (<http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/>) in early 2008.

Climate Change and Greenhouse Initiatives Report

The Board receives a quarterly update on local and national climate change and greenhouse initiatives.

This quarter's report provided an update on progress with the Commonwealth's National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting legislation. This legislation was developed following discussions at the Council of Australian Governments and will require that significant industrial emitters report on the extent of their emissions.

It also reported on the EPA's involvement in an agreement between the wine industry and the State Government under South Australia's *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*. Such agreements aim to encourage businesses to become more aware of their impacts on climate change and assist them in developing strategies to reduce these impacts.