

EPA Board Communique

19 February 2008



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 the waste industry

Prior to its February meeting, the Board met with representatives of the waste industry at a round-table breakfast. Such meetings are an important part of the Board's ongoing consultation program with community and industry groups. They allow the Board to hear firsthand 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 breakfast were:

- the waste levy and where the money received from the levy is spent
- the availability of financial incentives from government to assist establishment of facilities
- the Waste to Resources Environment Protection Policy.

Amendment of the River Murray Water Protection Area

The Board endorsed an amendment to the boundary of the River Murray Water Protection Area (RMWPA), proclaimed under the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, to align it with the River Murray Floodplain Area proclaimed under the *River Murray Act 2003*.

Aligning these two boundaries will make the referral of activities to the EPA for assessment clearer and administratively simpler for councils, industry and developers.

Unauthorised waste activities

The Board received a report from the Wingfield Taskforce established to address illegal waste activities in the Wingfield precinct. The EPA formed this Taskforce following complaints received from the industry and the Board's tour of the Wingfield precinct last year.

The Taskforce identified 12 activities in the Wingfield area that required further investigative follow up. The EPA has now followed up these sites and developed strategies to bring them into compliance with the *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

The EPA is now developing a state-based, cross-agency strategy to address unauthorised waste activities more broadly across the State.

EPA Local Government Subcommittee Report

A key aim of the Board's Local Government Subcommittee is to develop a formal agreement between the EPA and local councils about the sharing of functional responsibilities. This involves councils becoming administering agencies under the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, enabling them to carry out certain environment protection functions. Councils have been concerned about the resource implications for them in taking on this role.

The Board noted the Subcommittee's report and provided in principle support to provide up to \$15,000 towards an investigation into the resource implications for councils becoming administering agencies.