

COMMENTS

DRAFT PORT WATERWAYS WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The EPA seeks your views regarding the Port Waterways draft Water Quality Improvement Plan and would appreciate your comments by **Wednesday 31st January 2007**.

All submissions received by the EPA will be acknowledged and treated as public documents unless provided in confidence, subject to the requirements of the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*, and may be quoted in EPA reports.

Your views are sought on key aspects of the draft plan as per the following questions. However, your views on any aspect of the draft plan would be most appreciated and room for further comments is provided after the questions.

You can also forward your comments by mail, fax or e-mail to:

Peter Pfennig
Port Waterways Water Quality Improvement Plan Consultation
Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607
Adelaide SA 5001
Fax: (08) 8124 4673
Phone: (08) 8204 2181
E-mail: peter.pfennig@epa.sa.gov.au

1. Health of the Port Waterways

How healthy do you feel the Port Waterways to be?

Please list the number that corresponds to your perception of the health of the waterway, where 1 is 'not healthy' and 5 is 'very healthy'. Please provide any further comments on a separate line.

2. Focus on nutrients in the Water Quality Improvement Plan

The Water Quality Improvement Plan is focussed on nutrients and their effects on the Port Waterways. Is this appropriate?

Please list the number that corresponds to how appropriate you feel the focus on nutrients to be, where 1 is 'not appropriate' and 5 is 'very appropriate'. Please provide any further comments on a separate line.

If you feel that the WQIP should include other issues, what issues should it include?

3. Water Quality objectives

Do you agree with the water quality objectives on pages 18 and 19 of the draft Water Quality Improvement Plan?

Please list the number that corresponds to your agreement with the water quality objectives, where 1 is 'I don't agree at all' and 5 is 'I completely agree'. Please provide any further comments on a separate line.

If not, what better represents the things that the South Australian community should aim for in the different zones in the Port Waterways?

4. Water quality criteria for the Port Waterways

Should the Port Waterways have their own Water Quality criteria under Schedule 2 of the Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003?

When the WQ Policy was drafted, default values – those in Table 1 of Schedule 2 were listed for all South Australian waters. Consistent with the intent of the WQ Policy, values that reflect the water quality needed for a healthy Port Waterways have been developed as part of the Draft Port Waterways Water Quality Improvement Plan. Section 2.4 of the Draft WQIP (page 25) details this information.

5. Nutrient criteria and the Port Waterways

Should the WQ Policy be amended to include water quality nutrient criteria for the Port Waterways?

Please list the number that corresponds to your opinion about whether the WQ Policy should be changed, where 1 is 'do not change' and 5 is 'change the WQ Policy'. Please provide any further comments on a separate line.

6. Penrice Soda Products commitment

Penrice Soda Products have committed to reductions under this WQIP, and propose further reductions as they are able to identify and fund appropriate technology. How satisfied are you with this approach?

Please list the number that corresponds to your level of satisfaction, where 1 is 'not satisfied at all' and 5 is 'completely satisfied'. Please provide any further comments on a separate line.

7. SA Water commitment

SA Water intend to pursue further reductions in nutrient loads to the Port Waterways through the increased re-use of wastewater under this WQIP. How satisfied are you with this approach?

Please list the number that corresponds to your level of satisfaction, where 1 is 'not satisfied at all' and 5 is 'completely satisfied'. Please provide any further comments on a separate line.

8. Phased reduction in nutrients

The draft WQIP allows for a reduction in nutrients and an improvement in the water quality of the Port Waterways over time – perhaps ten years or more, with social and economic trade-offs eg retaining employment, reduced costs for capital upgrades of wastewater treatment plants. Do you feel this approach is acceptable?

Please list the number that corresponds to how acceptable you feel this is, where 1 is 'not acceptable' and 5 is 'completely acceptable'. Please provide any further comments on a separate line.

Further comments

9. Please use this section to provide further comments about any aspect of the draft WQIP.