



EPA Monitor

your update on EPA
news and information



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Implementation of Waste to Resources EPP approaches

The new Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy (EPP) will begin to take effect from 1 September 2010, in a staged approach over a three-year period.

The EPA and Zero Waste SA are working closely with the Local Government Association (LGA) and Waste Management Association of Australia to ensure stakeholders are provided with information about the new provisions and what they mean. This will include:

- Email updates from the EPA to stakeholders
- Presentations to meetings and forums
- Information provided for inclusion in industry publications and websites
- Providing updates and seeking feedback at the LGA's Waste Management Committee meetings
- Forming a reference group to assist in developing guidelines associated with the EPP
- A new section on the EPA website

The EPA has appointed a designated officer to manage the implementation process. If you have questions, wish to provide feedback, or would like to register to receive email updates from the EPA, please contact Anne Ellson anne.ellson@epa.sa.gov.au, tel: 8204 2000.

Waste reform

A new series of guides and information has been produced to assist in waste management and resource recovery in SA.

As part of a major project the EPA has undertaken on waste reform, new guidelines and standards have been developed to assist the waste industry manage waste-derived materials, ensure that waste is diverted from landfill where possible, and meets approved standards. The EPA has produced:

- guideline for stockpile management
- standard for the production and use of refuse derived fuel
- standard for the production and use of waste derived fill
- standard for the production and use of waste derived soil enhancer.

The guideline and standards provide industry with clarity on EPA requirements for both the production and use of waste derived materials. The documents detail the minimum standards for waste-derived products to be suitable for reuse and provide information on the criteria guiding the EPA's approval requirements.

For more information on the EPA's waste reform project, and for copies of the guideline and standards, please visit www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental_info/waste/waste_reform_project

Deadline for comment on rail noise guidelines extended

The deadline for submissions on the EPA's new rail noise guidelines has been extended following significant interest from industry and local government.

The new guidelines were developed to guide the development of new rail to minimise the impact of rail noise on the community.

The proposed guidelines focus on new and upgraded rail operations and would apply to light rail, passenger and freight rail networks in the state. The guidelines do not apply to existing rail infrastructure.

The new deadline for submissions is 5 pm, Tuesday, 27 July. A copy of the draft guidelines and information on how to make a submission is available from the EPA website at www.epa.sa.gov.au/what_we_do/open_for_consultation

Yalumba receives first EPA Accredited Sustainability Licence

On 19 May 2010, the EPA Presiding Member Cheryl Bart AO and the Minister for Environment and Conservation Hon. Paul Caica presented the first EPA Accredited Sustainability Licence to The Yalumba Wine Company.

The new EPA Accredited Sustainability Licence is a combination of the EPA's existing accredited licence with a voluntary sustainability agreement.

Initial targets Yalumba aims to achieve under its voluntary sustainability agreement, include:

- further reducing water use by 10%
- continuing to beneficially reuse all winery wastewater
- undertaking additional energy audits to identify cost-effective opportunities
- working with suppliers to maximise sustainable packaging.

The new licence entitles Yalumba to receive discounted licence fees and a licence term of 10 years.

For more information on the EPA's new Accredited Sustainability Licence, please visit http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/licensees/general_licences/sustainability_and_accredited_licences



Above: (from left) Hon. Paul Caica, Sam Hill Smith (Yalumba), Cheryl Bart AO (EPA), Dr. Cecil Camilleri (Yalumba) and Brian Walsh (Yalumba) with Yalumba's new environmental licence.

New marine info packs

The EPA has produced new marine info packs to assist both commercial and recreational marine vessel owners comply with the EPA's *Code of practice for vessel and facility management (marine and inland waters)*. Owners are required to appropriately manage the environmental damage that can result from their vessels and the wastes they generate.

The marine packs focus on providing marine vessel operators with information on how to manage their vessel's wastewater. This includes both black and grey water and gives owners information on waste pump-out facilities locations, correct zones for discharge when at sea and lots more. For a free marine info pack, please contact Jarrod Spencer jarrod.spencer@epa.sa.gov.au, tel: 08 8463 7086.

Air quality monitoring in Mount Gambier

As part of the EPA's SmokeWatch community education program, the EPA has located an air quality monitoring station in Mount Gambier for the second year to gather information on wood smoke pollution over the winter months.

The data from this monitoring process will be published weekly in the BorderWatch newspaper so residents can find out the quality of their local airshed. The results from last year's air quality monitoring found that wood smoke made up most of the pollution particles in Mount Gambier's air.

A report detailing outcomes of the 2010 SmokeWatch program including air monitoring results will be finalised later in the year and available to the public via the EPA website. For more information on the SmokeWatch program, please visit www.epa.sa.gov.au

Civil penalty ordered for environmental offence

The Environment Resources and Development Court has ordered that Resoureco pay a penalty of \$150,000 to the EPA.

This relates to a breach of licence condition by Resourceco, which operates a waste recovery plant at Wingfield, by illegally depositing waste in the mounds/batters on the Hines Road site between March and August 2006.

The waste deposition was in breach of the requirements of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* and there was an economic benefit to the respondent as a result of the breach.

By application to the Environment Resources and Development Court, a civil penalty was determined. The court ordered that the respondent pay a penalty, maintain the stability of the batters, and publicly acknowledge the breach.

The case serves as a reminder that the EPA will act on all unauthorised waste activities, and that companies should first check and confirm with the EPA should they have any doubt over whether what they are doing meets the requirements of the Act.

The matter was settled in the Environment Resources and Development Court on May 25 2010.

UN finds SA's waste management global best practice

A United Nations (UN) report has lauded South Australia's waste and resource management as global best practice.

The report was produced by the UN-Habitat which is the United Nations agency for human settlements, and promotes socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities. A total of 25 international waste experts nominated Adelaide for a profile in the report *Solid Waste in the World's Cities*.

The *Zero Waste Act 2004* and plastic bag ban were highlighted as two excellent examples of the South Australian government's leadership. While the UN's announcement is an achievement for the SA waste industry, the State Government is still determined to meet its target of reducing waste to landfill by 25% by 2014.

For more information on South Australia's Waste Strategy, please visit www.zerowaste.sa.gov.au/About.mvc/Wastestrategy

Contaminated waste licence granted

The EPA has granted Integrated Waste Services (IWS) with an amended licence to treat high level contaminated waste at their Multipurpose Waste Treatment Facility in Dublin. The amended licence allows IWS to subsequently dispose of the treated waste in the existing landfill or reuse if determined fit for purpose. This is the first facility of its kind in Australia and incorporates latest innovation in design and operation.

Greywater committee awarded for outstanding service

Committee members of the WS-037 *Greywater Treatment Systems for Vessels Operated on Inland Water* Standard have received an award from Standards Australia.

The committee has been awarded the 2009 Standards Australia Committee Award for

Outstanding Service to Standardisation – their work being one of the first projects undertaken by Standards Australia in a collaborative funding agreement with a stakeholder.

The committee members comprise of EPA staff, representatives from the houseboat industry, boating associations and other SA Government bodies.

Significant fine for polluting

The EPA has been successful in a Supreme Court appeal with a waste oil recycling company who caused serious environmental harm when used oil was discharged from their Largs North site in 2007.

Mulhern's Waste Oil Removal Pty Ltd was fined \$415,000 by the Full Bench of the Supreme Court and the convictions confirmed on one count of polluting the environment causing serious environmental harm and nine counts of contravening licence conditions.

While the EPA aims to work closely with industries to protect the environment, tough penalties apply to those companies who do the wrong thing.

The Mulhern's court prosecution is South Australia's largest fine for breaching the *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

EPA celebrates its 15th birthday

In May, the EPA celebrated its 15th birthday by inviting previous staff members and key stakeholders to recognise the EPA's achievements over the past one-and-a-half decades.

The celebration was hosted by EPA Presiding Member Cheryl Bart AO and acknowledged past achievements such as the introduction of:

- container deposit increase from 5c to 10c (2008)
- site contamination legislation (2008)
- plastic bag ban (2008)
- accredited licensing scheme (2002)
- civil penalties (2005).

The *Environment Protection Act 1993* was assented to on 17 October 1993 and proclaimed on 1 May 1995. The Act replaced six separate Acts and various statutory authorities and licensing and approval requirements, resulting in major streamlining of existing laws. Environmental issues including air quality, water quality, waste management and environmental noise are covered in the one Act.



Above: (from left) Nick Begakis, Jennifer Cashmore, Corinne Kelly and David Cruickshanks-Boyd.

News from the EPA Board

Following a review of a pilot program for a new Sustainability Licence, the EPA Board has announced it will support these licences as an ongoing program. It is expected there will be about six to 10 of these developed each year. The sustainability licence concept was first proposed at the June 2009 Board Round-table consultation meeting with industry, business and community sectors. Two Sustainability Licences have been delivered as part of the initial pilot program – New Castalloy and Yalumba Wines.

The EPA Board has been discussing the planning and development assessment system in South Australia, and recently invited Ian Nightingale, Chief Executive, Department of Planning and Local Government, to speak to the Board about planning, particularly the 30-Year Plan for Greater Adelaide. Many planning applications through State or local government are required to be referred to the EPA for advice, and in some cases direction, to assess the impacts that a proposed development will have. The Board recognises the importance of the EPA having increased influence over development plan amendments which may pose a high risk to the environment or human health. As a result, the EPA is developing a policy position on this issue.

SA's Commissioner for Water Security, Robyn McLeod, recently spoke to the EPA Board regarding implementation and progress on the Water for Good plan in SA. The EPA has a strong interest in the plan and plays a lead role in delivering two initiatives from the Water for Good Plan: developing water quality improvement plans for Adelaide Watershed and other critical water catchments, and determining environmental values for priority water bodies and the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges region.

Financial matters have been a focus in recent months, with the Board working towards a funding model for the EPA as part of its submission to the State Government's Sustainable Budget Commission (SBC). The Commission is due to report soon and the Budget will be handed down in September.

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