

EPA Monitor

your update on EPA
news and information



13 October 2009

Welcome to the second edition of EPA Monitor.

The EPA has just released its new Strategic Plan (2009-2012) which sets the direction for the EPA over the next three years. Our focus is very much on the EPA working together with industry, government and the community for a sustainable future.

Our key strategic direction is business success and sustainability: we will support business to reduce environmental impacts and use resources better, through the promotion of good environmental practice.

We will also be shortly rolling out projects which will offer licensees more support and direction in becoming sustainable businesses.

The new plan also continues our focus on improved regulation. By working with you we will hope to reduce red tape. This builds on red tape reduction by the EPA of some \$2 million over 18 months.

To view a copy of the Strategic Plan, visit www.epa.sa.gov.au

I sincerely welcome any feedback on our new Strategic Plan and any other experiences you have with the EPA.

Helen Fulcher
Chief Executive

Berri Estate Winery awarded Accredited Licence

One of Australia's leading wine producers, Berri Estate Winery run by Constellation Wines, has been awarded an EPA accredited licence for achieving best practice environmental management standards. Berri Estate Winery is only the second company in South Australia to receive an accredited licence. The new licence entitles the winery to a 50 per cent reduction in EPA licence fees, less prescriptive licence conditions and the regulatory certainty of a ten year licence compared to the standard 5-year EPA licence.



Above: EPA Chief Executive, Helen Fulcher presents a plaque to Berri Estate Winery Operation Manager, Paul Kassebaum in recognition of their accredited licence.

Licence fee review

On 1 July 2008, the EPA implemented a new licence fee structure that was based on 'user pays' and 'polluter pays' principles to make fees more reflective of the environmental risks posed by industry sectors. All licensees were transferred to the new fee structure throughout 2008/09.

The EPA committed to undertaking a targeted review of the licence fee structure after the first year of operation and this review began in July 2009. The review is focused on identifying areas of inconsistency within the system and recommending possible changes to the *Environment Protection (Fees and Levy) Regulations 1994* in response to the findings. All stakeholders will be provided the opportunity to raise their concerns through the review. The project is planned to be completed by January 2010.

For more information, contact Anne Ellson at the EPA on (08) 8204 2004.

Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy

The EPA has now released its response to submissions received on the draft Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy.

Overall, the submissions were supportive of the intent and objective of the draft Policy. The EPA's response highlights some recommended changes on matters of detail and priority areas for the regulatory impact analysis for example; the estimated cost for affected sectors to meet the requirements of the Policy.

The next step in the development of the draft Policy is for the EPA to report to the Minister for Environment and Conservation on the draft Policy and the outcomes of the consultation, together with any recommendations. The EPA will undertake a regulatory impact analysis for the Policy prior to reporting to the Minister. The target for finalising the Policy and submit it to the Ministers for approval is December 2009. Implementation is then expected to commence in early 2010.

The Policy will encourage the avoidance, reduction and reuse of waste in South Australia and support South Australia's Strategic Plan by attaining sustainability and reaching the target of a 25% reduction in waste to landfill by 2014.

To view the EPA's response to submissions, visit www.epa.sa.gov.au

Changes to land and business regulations

Land and business regulations have been amended to take into account new site contamination legislation.

The Land and Business (Sale and Conveyancing) Regulations 1995 have been changed to allow for information about site contamination to be made available to prospective purchasers of land.

This will take effect in a staged approach from 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010.

Under the Environment Protection (Site Contamination) Amendment Act 2007, which took effect from 1 July 2009, the EPA has new powers to collect information about the remediation or assessment of actual or potential contamination on land.

The new site contamination legislation makes clear the requirements for managing site contamination, including the ability to order an appropriate person to assess or remediate any site contamination that is present.

Healthy Waters Project

The Healthy Waters Project involved local communities, industry and government agencies working together to consider the targets for the quality of water in rivers, creeks, underground and marine environments, across the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges region, from the Barossa Valley to the tip of the Fleurieu Peninsula.

The project is carried out in accordance with section 13 (1) (i) of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* 'to conduct and promote programs for the protection, restoration or enhancement of the

environment'.

The feedback from all participants is currently being collated and will be detailed in a draft report which will be made publicly available for comment. Once finalised, the report will help inform EPA Policy, and future priorities for water security and water quality planning and management.

As part of the EPA's Healthy Waters Project, the EPA has consulted extensively with the community to find out what people value most about their local water resources.

EPA houseboat audits

In mid August 2009, the EPA audited private houseboats in the Riverland region between Berri and Renmark to ensure houseboats have compliant sewage disposal systems. Of the 75 houseboats assessed, 52 were non compliant with the EPA's regulation for wastewater management.

Although 70% of the vessels audited did not meet standards, the audit proved that houseboat owners had improved their practices within the last two years. In May 2007, a total of 50 houseboats were audited in the Renmark region and only 2 houseboats met the EPA's sewage disposal standards.



Above: EPA houseboat auditors Jarrod Spencer and David Palmer

Air Quality data in BorderWatch newspaper

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

The data from this monitoring process has been published in the BorderWatch newspaper on a weekly basis so residents can find out the quality of their local airshed.

EPA Board travels to Mount Gambier

During October, members of the EPA Board will be visiting Mount Gambier as part of the Authority's commitment to regional consultation. The Board will host a public meeting on 19 October from 3pm til 5pm at the Lakes Resort (Mount Gambier) to give the community an opportunity to discuss EPA related environmental issues directly with the Board.

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Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607
Adelaide SA 5001

General enquiries: (61 8) 8204 2000
www.epa.sa.gov.au

