



Introduction

This newsletter is one of a number of ways we are exploring to keep our stakeholders better informed of important EPA initiatives that are aimed at managing environmental risk, improving environmental quality, conserving our natural resources and managing our relationships.

It also demonstrates the diversity of work that EPA staff undertakes in meeting the objects of the Environment Protection Act and South Australia's Strategic Plan objectives and targets.

I hope you find this newsletter informative and I welcome any feedback emailed to: lidija.shuman@epa.sa.gov.au

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'P. Vogel', is written over a horizontal line.

Dr Paul Vogel
Chair and Chief Executive
Environment Protection Authority
South Australia

EPA Round Table 2007

The EPA Board is inviting senior representatives from public and private organisations to participate in this year's Round Table on 9 May.

In seeking to contribute to the State's economic growth, while fulfilling the requirements of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, the EPA proposes to use the Round Table conference as a means of engaging key stakeholders in discussion on how we can raise awareness of the positive outcomes from environmental regulation, and strategically engage with small, medium and large industry.

Equally, we will be trying to identify priority actions for the EPA and partnership opportunities to ensure that we are better placed to support and contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the SA Strategic Plan.

Environment Protection (Waste to Resources) Policy update

The EPA is working with Zero Waste SA to develop a new Environment Protection Waste to Resources Policy that will help in achieving *South Australia's Strategic Plan 2007* and *South Australia's Waste Strategy 2005-2010*.

The Policy aims to:

- ❑ provide support for the waste management hierarchy
- ❑ improve regulation over illegal dumping
- ❑ ensure metropolitan waste is not to go directly to landfill, but must be first treated at a materials recovery facility
- ❑ improve hazardous waste management requirements
- ❑ ban the disposal of selected materials to landfills
- ❑ establish an improved framework for the use of standards and codes of practice within sectors of the waste industry.

A public consultation period will be scheduled once the draft policy is completed.

Strategic Plan for air quality in South Australia

We are in the early stages of developing a new *Strategic Plan for Air Quality in South Australia*. The plan aims to manage air quality throughout the State.

A review of current EPA air quality monitoring has been conducted and will assist in the development of the strategic plan.

Environment Protection (Noise) Policy update

The EPA is working on replacing two existing policies on noise control with a new Environment Protection (Noise) Policy. The new policy seeks to provide clarity and consistency in environmental noise regulation. It is proposed to achieve this by:

- ❑ setting general provisions that achieve the general environmental duty
- ❑ setting provisions for special or unique noise sources
- ❑ developing links with the State planning framework provided by the *Development Act 1993*
- ❑ setting general provisions for managing development
- ❑ setting rules for measuring noise.

The new policy has not yet been presented to Parliament for consideration.

SAPOL training on noise and nuisance assessment

For over two years the EPA has conducted training for Police Officers working in the Christies Beach area. The training focuses on the provisions of the Environment Protection Act and can be used by police when responding to noise complaints.

This year, we intend to carry out the same type of training in the remaining five metropolitan police service areas and eight regional areas.

Business sustainability working group

Together with the Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure, Department of Trade and Economic Development, Department of Premier and Cabinet, SA Water, Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Board and Zero Waste SA, the EPA has formed a working group to develop a website to assist businesses in becoming more environmentally sustainable.

The website will also act as a single point of contact for businesses wanting more information on water grants and other information on initiatives regarding eco-efficiency.

Accredited licences

The EPA has developed an accredited licence process that rewards our licence holders for achieving best practice environmental management standards.

Businesses who gain and retain an accredited licence will benefit from a 50% reduction in their total annual licence fee as well as achieving enhanced environmental credibility with customers and the community.

In order to obtain an EPA Accredited Licence, existing licence holders must demonstrate the ability to uphold a high level of environmental performance and compliance with their current licence conditions.

Businesses wishing to apply for an accredited licence should contact their EPA licence coordinator for more information.

EPA Guidelines for storm water management in Mount Gambier

In February this year, the EPA released a new set of stormwater management guidelines specifically designed for the Mount Gambier region. While not legally enforceable, the guidelines help landowners, developers and councils to comply with their environmental duty of care under Section 25 of the Environment Protection Act.

The guidelines were developed in response to the specific environmental settings and the historic stormwater management practices that have been applied in the South East region. While the techniques and practices discussed in the guidelines can be applicable to all areas in the South East, the guidelines focus on the urbanised areas of Mount Gambier.

The guidelines are the result of a three-year project involving consultants from the University of South Australia with funding from with EPA, City of Mount Gambier and the South East NRM Board.

Fire sprinkler test system

In November last year the EPA cooperated with the City of Norwood, Payneham and St Peters, Caroma Industries and Wormald in conducting Adelaide's first water conservation trial to re-use water from fire sprinkler systems.

The trial involved collecting fire sprinkler test water using a council water truck, assessing the water quality then using the water as a dust suppressant on work sites and to irrigate local parks and gardens.

Several more trials are planned with other councils this year.

Landfill Guidelines

At the end of last year the EPA Board resolved to release and implement the new EPA Guidelines *Environmental Management of Landfill Facilities*, following extensive consultation with industry. Since then, EPA staff have been busy developing an implementation plan relevant for all waste industry stakeholders.

To Board's Local Government Subcommittee played an important role in involving local government in the policy development process of the guidelines.

The EPA Board also passed a number of resolutions on which the implementation plan is built around. Several key aspects of the 10 resolutions include:

- ❑ conduct specific briefing sessions for consultants
- ❑ EPA staff to exercise discretion and have regard to site-specific circumstances when applying the guidelines.

The EPA is conducting a briefing session for waste industry consultants in April and is planning to hold sessions for council and private landfill operators and EPA staff.

We are also working closely with all regional local government waste management committees and groups and Zero Waste SA.

For more information about any of the articles in this newsletter contact:

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