

# EPA Board Communique

15 April 2008



*The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Board Communique has been developed to provide information on matters discussed by the Board at its monthly meetings.*

## ***Board governance review***

Immediately prior to its April meeting the Board held a morning meeting at which it reviewed its governance arrangements. As legislation is currently before the Parliament to separate the Chair and Chief Executive roles within the EPA the Board took the opportunity to further review its role and function in relation to that of the Chief Executive (CE) and management. As a part of this it clarified the matters reserved for decision by the Board and those matters reserved for decision by the Chief Executive.

A Board Subcommittee was formed to undertake follow up work emerging out of the governance session and the outcomes of that subcommittee will be reported back to the Board.

The Board will hold a strategic planning session in August 2008 to consider and review the EPA Strategic Plan and organisational performance in pursuing the Plan.

## ***Compliance and Enforcement Policy and Management System***

The Board approved a Compliance and Enforcement Statement for the EPA. This Statement provides the overarching objectives and principles that govern the EPA's compliance and enforcement systems and processes. The statement seeks to provide further clarity, transparency and consistency of process in the EPA's decision-making. It will become a public document to provide information to stakeholders on the EPA's overall approach to compliance and enforcement matters, and the principles it takes account of in its regulatory decision making.

The Board also noted the development of the supporting Compliance and Enforcement Management System that provides the detailed tools, systems and guidance to support officers in undertaking regulatory matters; and requested further reports on this system as it is progressively developed over the coming months.

## ***2008 State of the Environment (SoE) Report***

The 2008 SoE Report will be the fifth Report for the State. SoE reporting is undertaken by all States and at the national level and provides independent recommendations to government to guide policy and program development.

The Board endorsed the proposed Communication Plan for the 2008 SoE report. This Plan will facilitate the communication of key environmental, social and economic information arising from the finalised SoE report to the South Australian community. This SoE Report is due for publishing in late 2008.

## ***Board membership***

EPA Board Chair Mr Allan Holmes welcomed new Board member Mrs Cheryl Hill to her first Board meeting. She has been appointed to the EPA Board for a three year term from 20 March 2008 to 19 March 2011.

Ms Hill is the Executive Director, Foundation for Australia's Most Endangered Species Inc and has worked with this organisation since 1997. She is also a member of both the Zero Waste SA and the Conservation Council of SA Boards. Mrs Hill was appointed to the EPA Board for her practical knowledge of, and experience in, environmental conservation and advocacy on environmental matters on behalf of the community.