

EPA Board Communique

17 June 2008



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

2008 State of the Environment (SoE) Report

The fifth *State of the Environment (SoE) Report* for South Australia is planned for release by November 2008. Section 112 of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* requires that an SoE Report be prepared and published at least every five years by the Environment Protection Authority. The previous report was released in November 2003.

The SoE Report provides detailed and peer reviewed assessments of the state or condition of the environment, the pressures that influence this condition and the effectiveness of responses to these pressures. The report also provides Government with independent advice, endorsed by the Board, recommending future policy and program direction.

The Board noted that six chapters have been endorsed by the responsible Board members, with the remaining chapters now allocated to Board members for endorsement over the coming weeks.

Climate change and greenhouse update

The Board receives quarterly reports giving it an update on State and national initiatives in the climate change and greenhouse gas policy areas.

As a part of this update the Board noted that:

- the Commonwealth Government is now leading Australia's response to climate change, in cooperation with other governments through the Council of Australian Governments
- the State Government has established a Carbon Economy Strategy Group, chaired by Department of Premier and Cabinet, which brings together all agencies with an interest in climate change. The Environment Protection Authority is represented on this group.

Site Contamination Legislative Package

The Board received a presentation on the *Environment Protection (Site Contamination) Amendment Act 2007* (the Amendment Act). This Act, assented to on 1 November 2007, introduced the legislative framework to manage site contamination in South Australia. Unlike the majority of other states and territories prior to these amendments South Australia did not have a legislative framework to deal with the assessment and remediation of site contamination. Parts of the Amendment Act commenced in December 2007, with all provisions anticipated to come into operation in February 2009.

An essential component of the management of site contamination is the accreditation of site contamination auditors who can assess and review the work carried out by others on site contamination assessment and remediation. Consultation on the regulations to accredit these auditors has been completed and drafting instructions are currently being prepared.

Comprehensive information on the management of site contamination in South Australia is available on the EPA's website at www.epa.sa.gov.au. This information is updated regularly.