

EPA Board Communique

17 August 2008



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

Presentation from Professor Barry Brook, Director, Research Institute for Climate Change and Sustainability

At the Board's invitation Professor Barry Brook from the University of Adelaide gave a presentation on current information and data around climate change and its potential impacts.

Prof Brook is an international research leader in global ecology and conservation biology. He holds the Foundation Sir Hubert Wilkins Chair of Climate Change and is Director of the Research Institute for Climate Change and Sustainability at the University of Adelaide. He has published two books and over 100 scientific papers on various aspects of human impacts on the natural environment and biodiversity, including climate change, deforestation and overexploitation of populations. The principal motivation for his research is to identify ways and means of reducing biodiversity loss and mitigating the worst ravages of global change.

Prof Brook's presentation covered current research on climate change that demonstrated how the situation may worsen if present trends are not interrupted. He also spoke about the possible climate impacts for Australia based on a range of scenarios with different levels of temperature increase.

Prof Brook also advised that he is conducting a six part public lecture series entitled 'Climate Change Q&A: Sceptical Questions and the Scientific Answers'.

More detailed information relating to Prof Brook's presentation and views can be obtained at the following web-site: www.bravenewclimate.com

Managing the interaction between Managed Aquifer Recharge and the new site contamination provisions of the Environment Protection Act 1993

The Board noted a report on how the EPA will manage the interaction between Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) and the new site contamination provisions of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

Historically, aquifers across SA have been utilised for the disposal of stormwater and wastewater, however, in recent times, aquifers have also been used for the storage and extraction of water via Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR).

Surface water and wastewater potentially contain chemical substances such as metals, pesticides, nutrients and organic compounds. These substances have the potential to cause an adverse risk to human health and the environment if the water is not treated to an appropriate level prior to injection into an underground aquifer.

The Board asked that an information document be prepared for licensees on the operation of MAR and how the EPA will use its suite of regulatory tools to regulate the environmental aspects of aquifer storage and recovery. This information document will also clearly link the EPA's regulatory involvement to the overall government policy relating to MAR.

Carbon Reduction Initiatives for the EPA

The Board received a status report on the implementation of initiatives proposed in the EPA's carbon reduction action plan.

The implementation of these initiatives will continue to reduce the EPA's energy usage and carbon emissions, but the biggest single impact in reducing such emissions will be the EPA's move to its new accommodation in 2009. Environmentally sustainable features of the new building and fit out features will help the EPA achieve a 5 star Greenstar Office Interiors Rating.

Major initiatives across government are focused on reducing energy consumption in buildings and improving the energy efficiency of government buildings by 25% on 2000-01 levels by 2014.