

Review of the Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003 – Public consultation

Call for comments

A review of the *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003* is completed. The policy has been in operation since October 2003 and over more than nine years of its operation, it has provided the structure for the regulation and management of SA's surface, underground and marine waters.

It is a flexible document in parts that allows values to be changed without undue delay and can create specific controls for particular water bodies. It is also used regularly by local government as part of the general stormwater management programme. However, there is a case to improve the policy and the explanatory report canvasses a number of amendments.

In 2009, the EPA consulted extensively on the intent to review the Policy. The feedback indicated that there was general support for the proposed changes, and the EPA has moved forward with the drafting of the revised policy, incorporating the amendments below.

In particular, changes include:

- 1 exclusion of salt interception scheme water within a pipe from the operation of the policy, but continuing to include its final discharge into an evaporation basin
- 2 broadening of the definition of 'public stormwater system' to ensure catchment management infrastructure such as detention basins and artificial wetlands are included
- 3 changing clause 13 from a mandatory provision to a general duty and tightening water quality criteria to better reflect the national guidelines (ANZECC 2000). This will be enforced, where necessary, by an environment protection order (EPO)
- 4 repealing exemption requirements (current clauses 14 and 15)
- 5 making changes to wastewater lagoon provisions to broaden the term
- 6 prohibiting the use of tributyltin (TBT) on the hulls of vessels or other surfaces
- 7 modifying the scheduled pollutants lists to include more specific referencing of wastes, adding new pollutants and clarifying certain entries on the existing list
- 8 changing various definitions within the policy and adding new, relevant definitions
- 9 modifying the structure to improve ease of use and interpretation.

The explanatory report setting out the amendments to the policy is available at [www.epa.sa.gov.au/what we do/open for consultation](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/what_we_do/open_for_consultation).

Your comments are sought on these amendments, together with any other feedback you would like to make about the Policy or the protection of water quality in South Australia. Please note that in accordance with section 28 of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, submissions received will be treated as public documents and made available for inspection by interested persons.

To assist in providing comments, the EPA has prepared a feedback form. For questions that you do not wish to comment on, you may leave the field blank. You are invited to indicate your support or otherwise for any of the proposed questions.

Submissions close at 5 pm on **20 December 2013**.



The form can be submitted electronically or in hard copy to:

Ms Claire Mennie

Environment Protection Authority

GPO Box 2607

ADELAIDE, SA 5001

Fax: (08) 8124 4675, Email: <epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au> (please mark attention to Claire Mennie).

Public consultation feedback form

Your details
Name of individual or organisation:
Address:
Telephone number:
Email:
Contact person (organisation):
Name of person completing this form:
Position of person completing this form:
Feedback
Specific questions raised in the discussion paper
Question 1 – Do you have any comment on salt interception scheme water from within a pipe being excluded from the operation of the policy?
Question 2 – Do you have any comment on the definition of 'public stormwater system' being broadened to ensure catchment management infrastructure is included?
Question 3 – Do you have any comment on the amendment to a general duty to achieve water quality criteria, while tightening water quality criteria and the associated removal of exemption criteria (current clauses 14 and 15)?
Question 4 – Do you have any comment on the expansion to the definition of wastewater lagoons within the policy?

Question 5 – Do you have any comment on the amendment to prohibit the use of tributyltin (TBT) on the hulls of vessels or other surfaces?

Question 6 – Do you have any comments on the amendments to the scheduled pollutants lists?

Question 7 – Do you have any comments on the addition, amendment or deletion of any definitions in the draft revised policy?

Question 8 - Do you have any comments regarding modifying the structure of the policy?

Other comments

If you have any other comments relating to the Policy please provide them here.