

Aquaculture Bill 2001

The South Australian Department for Primary Industries and Resources reports that:

“Aquaculture is an emerging industry for South Australia with significant potential benefits, especially for regional South Australia. Its estimated value in 1999/2000 was \$222 million, directly employing over 1,100 people. In addition, it generates \$193 million and employs a further 1,400 people in associated industries.”

Aquaculture activities are currently regulated under various pieces of State legislation. In response to demand for clarification and simplification of the regulatory arrangements, the South Australian Government has developed the Consultation Draft *Aquaculture Bill 2001* which proposes to consolidate matters of relevance to aquaculture into one Act.

The Government reports that the key aspects of the Consultation Draft Bill are:

- Emphasis on achieving an ecologically sustainable aquaculture industry
- Greater consistency in the way land-based aquaculture and aquaculture in State waters are regulated
- Streamlined administration of the legislation by having aquaculture regulated in an integrated way by one lead agency, namely the Department of Primary Industries and Resources
- Encouraging greater certainty for business decision makers
- Requiring persons seeking a licence for aquaculture that is carried out in State waters to have a lease, granted by the Minister, over those waters.

The Department for Primary Industries and Resources advises that preliminary comments on the Consultation Draft *Aquaculture Bill 2001* need to be submitted by 15 September 2001. Consultation will, however, continue until the Consultation Draft Bill is tabled in Parliament.

The Consultation Draft *Aquaculture Bill 2001* and a questionnaire aimed to assist in the making of submissions on the Bill are available from the Department for Primary Industries and Resources' website: <http://www.pir.sa.gov.au> or by contacting Ms Lisa Johns, Aquaculture SA on phone (08) 8226 3770.

Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Policy 2001

The National Packaging Covenant and a National Environment Protection Measure for Used Packaging Materials (“the NEPM”) was made on 2 July 1999. The Covenant is based on the premise that all those who benefit from the production of packaging should assume some responsibility for it over its life cycle.

The NEPM automatically came into operation in South Australia as the Environment Protection (Used Packaging Materials) Policy 2001 (“the Used Packaging Materials EPP”) pursuant to section 28A of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

The South Australian Government has recently amended the Used Packaging Materials EPP to give meaning to the general provisions of the NEPM, by the inclusion of reporting requirements for certain brand owners and Local Governments that operate a kerbside or drop-off recycling program.

Under the Used Packaging Materials EPP, ‘brand owner’ means:

- (a) a person who is the owner or licensee in Australia of a trade mark under which a product is sold or otherwise distributed in Australia, whether the trade mark is registered or not;
- (b) in the case of a product which has been imported, the first person to sell that product in Australia;
- (c) in respect of in-store packaging, the supplier of the packaging to the store.