

## Threatened and Protected Fauna in Tasmania – Scientific Research Approvals

The Minister for Primary Industries, Water and Environment has requested a review of Protocols for Scientific Research Approvals which involve threatened and protected fauna in Tasmania.

The objective of the review is to:

- Assess the processes under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1970* and the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* for the approval of scientific research involving protected wildlife and threatened fauna species in Tasmania, and
- Assess the approval processes for scientific research involving protected wildlife and threatened fauna species on reserved land.

A Discussion paper was released for public comment by the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment in October 2001.

## Draft Environment Protection Policy [EPP] (Air Quality)

The Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment released a draft EPP on Air Quality for public comment in September 2001. The Draft Policy and the accompanying Regulatory Impact Statement were made pursuant to the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994* and the *Subordinate Legislation Act 1992*.

The objectives of the Draft Policy are to minimise the adverse impact of industrial manufacturing, transport and home heating on ambient air quality. The Draft Policy applies to the ambient air environment throughout Tasmania and covers:

- Values and standards for the air environment (including adoption of the air quality standards in the National Environment Protection Measure on Air Quality).
- Management of point sources of air pollution from industrial sources (including buffer zones, monitoring requirements, odour management, how emission limits should be set, and, management of the transition from existing standards to the new standards)
- Management of diffuse sources of air pollution (including waste burning in urban areas, planned burning in the areas of forestry, agriculture and ecological management, wood heater emissions and operation of heaters, and, moisture content of firewood offered for sale).

The accompanying impact statement outlines the intent of the Draft Policy and its potential environmental, social and economic costs and benefits.

## Marine Protected Areas Strategy

In August 2001, the State Government released a Strategy for establishing a system of Marine Protected Areas in Tasmanian waters. The Resource Planning and Development Commission is responsible for the identification and selection of new marine protected areas in accordance with a 12 step process which involves public consultation. The Commission provides Recommendations Reports to the Minister for Primary Industries, Water and Environment. Cabinet makes the final decisions on management arrangements for new Marine Protected Areas.

## **Emission Limit Guidelines**

The Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment have developed Emission Limit Guidelines for common activities which give rise to 'point source pollution', in consultation with local government, public health authorities and industry. The Guidelines replace the Environment Protection (Water Pollution) Regulations 1974.

The following guidelines have been developed:

- Emission limit Guidelines for Sewage Treatment Plants that Discharge Pollutants into Fresh & Marine Waters
- Wastewater Management Guidelines for Meat Premises & Pet Food Works
- Wastewater management Guidelines for Intensive Animal Husbandry Activities

The Guidelines outline regulatory requirements (to be implemented by the relevant regulatory authorities in accordance with The State Policy on Water Quality Management) and also provide advice to operators on best practice environmental management.