

e-Bulletin

No. 17 of 2018, 25 October 2018

The environment's legal team since 1992 - protecting the public interest - evening the odds

The EDO is an independent community legal centre specialising in public interest environmental law. We provide legal advice and assistance, engage in law reform and participate in legal education activities for the South Australian community.

In the last fortnight we have been working on providing feedback to the South Australian government regarding a new system of natural resources management and assessment of development applications under the new planning system.

If you are seeking advice on any environmental or planning issue please visit our website <http://www.edosa.org.au/> or email edosa@edo.org.au

Our services are only possible with the support of the South Australian community. Your donation will enable us to continue our fight to defend the environment using the law. Please consider a tax deductible donation - all amounts over \$2 are tax deductible.

Click here to [join us](#) or [make a tax-deductible donation](#).

We are also on [Facebook](#). Please feel free to share this eBulletin with your networks.

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NEWS AND EVENTS

South Australia

[EDO Annual General Meeting – 26 November](#)

The Environmental Defenders Office (SA) AGM will be held this year on Monday, 26th of November. Drinks and nibbles provided. All welcome, but only members can vote.

If you are interested in nominating for the Management Committee please email Gabrielle Bond, EDO Administrator at edo@edosa.org.au

When: Monday, **26 November 2018**, 5.30 for 6:00pm.

Where: **Flinders University City Campus:** Room 2.3, Level 2, 182 Victoria Square (cnr Flinders St), Adelaide

IMPORTANT:

It is anticipated that a major item for consideration by members will be whether EDO SA consents to merge with other EDO offices to form a national organization. We encourage as many members as possible to attend the AGM and an Information Session in the week prior and members will shortly receive detailed written information. Details of the Information Session:

When : Monday , **19th November**, 5.30pm.

Where: **Flinders University City Campus:** Room 10.3, Level 10, 182 Victoria Square
(cnr Flinders St), Adelaide

NOTICES AND INQUIRIES

South Australia

[SA Parliamentary Inquiry – SA Livestock Industry](#)

The House of Assembly has referred the following inquiry to the Natural Resources Committee:

to inquire into and report on strategies to ensure a strong and robust South Australian livestock industry with particular reference to

- (a) the development of a plan to ensure that all livestock producers and transporters who currently gain income from the live export trade meet high animal welfare standards;
- (b) explore the capacity of the local meat industry to expand and create jobs;
- (c) further develop and strengthen overseas markets for Australian meat products;
- (d) ensure that the South Australian livestock industry is best placed to further capitalize on new opportunities; and
- (e) any other related matter.

Submissions are due by **9 November 2018**.

[Regular SA Government Consultations](#)

Below are links to a number of SA Government agencies and bodies who undertake regular environmental audits or assessments open for public consultation. Whilst there are too many such consultations for us to list them all fully in the e-Bulletin, the links are included here as they may nevertheless be of interest to readers. The e-Bulletin will publish consultations in these categories where we deem them to be of wide public importance.

[Current Crown Developments and 'Category 3' Developments before SCAP](#)

[Current Ministerial Development Plan Amendments](#)

[Current YourSAy consultations](#)

[Current EPA license applications](#)

[Current DSD mining proposals](#)

[Current DSD petroleum proposals](#)

Commonwealth

[Underwriting New Generation Investments consultation paper](#)

The Federal Government's says that it's recently announced *Underwriting New Generation Investments* program is focused on attracting new investment in firm or firmed electricity generation capacity to increase competition and reduce electricity prices. However, a number of industry experts have expressed concern that the program appears to be an attempt by the current government to lock in new coal-fired electricity generation before the next federal election. The scheme, as presented, allows the government to shift the climate risks of such investments onto the tax-paying general public.

The consultation and approvals process for the program will be quick, with the government flagging that it will invite proponents to nominate generation projects through an Expression of Interest process open from December 2018 to January 2019, with proposals assessed from March 2019.

Submissions are due by **9 November 2018**.

[Improving consultation and transparency of offshore oil and gas – draft regulations](#)

In November 2017, the Federal Government announced changes arising from a review of the consultation and transparency requirements for offshore petroleum (oil and gas) activities. It said that the reforms would ensure the Australian public has a better understanding of the process used to decide where, when and how offshore petroleum activities take place, and to ensure more information on environmental management is made public.

The reforms include:

- requiring publication of full environment plans on submission by the titleholder and on acceptance by the regulator, NOPSEMA;
- formalising a public comment period on environment plans for exploration activities, including seismic surveys;
- improved public consultation on potential new offshore petroleum exploration areas; and
- a community engagement program to provide the public with more information on the petroleum approvals processes for activities in Commonwealth waters.

Draft amendments to the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009 have been developed to implement the first two of these initiatives, along with an explanatory document to provide further information on the proposed changes.

A consulting forum to accompany the amendment proposals will be held in Adelaide on Thursday, 1 November, from 10.00am – 12.30pm. More details at the above headline link.

Submissions are due by **16 November 2018**.

[APVMA - Risk Assessment Manual for Environment consultation](#)

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) is releasing its *Risk Assessment Manual for Environment* for public comment. The document reflects current

practice in assessment of environment at the APVMA and is intended as a guidance document both for the APVMA and for stakeholders.

The document provides examples for the data that is required for Environment assessment, the assessment of that data, and provides relevant linkage to the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994* and its regulations.

Submissions are due by **30 November 2018**.

[Murray-Darling Basin farm-water efficiency projects consultation](#)

Murray–Darling Basin governments are seeking feedback about the best ways to invest in on-farm water efficiency projects across the Basin. Governments want to know how they can increase on-farm water efficiency and return saved water to the environment while having a neutral or beneficial impact on industries and communities.

The measures are subject to requirements set in the Basin Plan 2012 and an intergovernmental agreement signed by all jurisdictions. These arrangements require the recovery of 450 gigalitres through efficiency measure projects by 2024 with neutral or positive socio-economic outcomes.

Regional public meetings are scheduled for Renmark and Murray Bridge on November 5 and 6 respectively. More information is available at the above headline link.

Submissions are due by **9 November 2018**.

[Offshore oil and gas decommissioning framework - initial review](#)

An increasing number of offshore petroleum projects in Commonwealth waters are reaching the end of their productive lives. It is anticipated that within the next two decades a substantial number of these projects will need to be decommissioned. To prepare for increased decommissioning activity, the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (the department) is reviewing the policy, regulatory and legislative framework for decommissioning offshore petroleum infrastructure in Commonwealth waters (the framework).

The stated aim of the review is to ensure that the Commonwealth decommissioning framework is fit-for-purpose, positions Australia to respond to decommissioning challenges and opportunities now and into the future, and meets the expectations of government, industry and the broader Australian community. To this end, the review is aiming to identify areas where the framework could be clarified, rationalised or improved. The review focuses primarily on environmental and well integrity outcomes, and regulatory oversight.

Submissions are due by **16 January 2019**.

Regular Commonwealth Government Consultations

Below are links to Federal Government agencies and bodies who undertake environmental audits/assessments that may be open for public consultation. Whilst there are too many such consultations for us to list them all in the e-Bulletin, the links are included here as they may nevertheless be of interest to readers. The e-Bulletin will publish consultations in these categories where we deem them to be of wide public importance.

[EPBC Act Public Notices and Invitations to Comment](#)

[Department of the Environment and Energy - Public Consultation Notice Board](#)

PREVIOUS NOTICES: REMINDERS

[Planning and Design Code: Transport and integrated movement policy consultation](#)

- Submissions are due by **3 December 2018**.

[Planning and Design Code: Environment and natural resources policy consultation](#)

- Submissions are due by **3 December 2018**.

EDO(SA) RECENT SUBMISSIONS

EDO(SA) has recently released the following completed submission, which is available for download:

[Submission re NRM Discussion Paper 151018](#)