

Draft Water Management Plan

Pursuant to the *Water Management Act 1999* the Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment have prepared and released the Draft Great Forester Catchment Water Management Plan.

Management Provisions in the Plan include water allocations and surety levels, 'environmental flow' provisions, groundwater licensing and allocation, metering, and operating rules for direct takes from catchment streams. The draft is on public exhibition and written representations may be submitted up until Monday 18 March 2002.

New Draft Emission Limit Guidelines

The Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment are developing 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.

Draft guidelines have been prepared for Fruit and Vegetable Processing Activities, in consultation with operators and regulators from this sector. The draft guidelines set out proposed emission limit guidelines and provide guidance on best practice environmental management for the fruit and vegetable processing sector. Public comment to be received by 15 March 2002.

Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Framework

The Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Steering Committee was established by the Tasmanian Government in April 2001 to develop a Framework to guide the future management of the State's natural resources. The Steering Committee was comprised of representatives from state and local government, industry and community groups, and the development process included two rounds of public consultation. The Framework was finalised and submitted to DPIWE & Cabinet in December 2001.

The role of the Framework is to provide an administrative system that enables the State to both integrate and co-ordinate natural resource management and the activities of entities involved in natural resource management. Importantly, the operation of the Framework includes but does not replace the existing formal systems governing natural resource regulation. Enabling legislation is to be developed to implement the Framework.

The enabling legislation will provide for the establishment of the new administrative integrating structures being the Tasmanian Natural Resource Management Council and Regional Natural Resource Management Committees, and will set out the composition, roles, powers and functions of these bodies. The legislation will also incorporate the Objectives of the Resource Management and Planning System, and establish a review process to assess Framework performance five years after implementation.

The Framework recognises natural resource management roles at national, state, regional and local levels, and outlines a number of priorities including: capacity building; education/communication; research; water management; vegetation management (forest and non-forest); soil management; management of weeds, pests and diseases; and, management of coastal/marine environment.