

# EPA inquiry - Submission by Pyrenees Shire Council

The Pyrenees Shire Council provided input into the inquiry through one of the public forums, and in addition would like to make the following comments.

Council supports key recommendations in the submission by the Municipal Association of Victoria and in particular that:

## Noise

- The EPA consult with councils about the division of noise responsibilities, resources and develop an accepted protocol for responding to noise complaints that can be shared with the community.
- The EPA include this outline of responsibilities within a resource sharing protocol and also enable councils to access environmental auditor expertise on a competitive fee for service basis

## Contaminated Land

- That government Undertake a comprehensive review of the potentially contaminated land legislative framework to identify role and responsibilities that fit with expertise.
- That government Include the EPA as a referral authority where an Environmental Audit Overlay is in place

## Windfarms

- That the EPA become more actively involved in wind farms by becoming a licence activity under the Environmental Protection Act 1970 and that the EPA become responsible for noise monitoring and compliance

## Roles and Responsibilities

- The Government determine the appropriate roles and responsibilities of EPA in the context of DELWP and SV.
- An operational agreement between the EPA and local government be developed that clearly sets out responsibilities and resource sharing

In addition the following comments are provided:

## Research and Expertise

Council considers that it is important that the EPA maintain a reputation as a lead authority on environmental issues relevant to its role, in order to provide advice and support to local government and other agencies. Council appreciates that there is a need for investment in research and education in order to maintain this reputation.

## Responsiveness

Council considers it important that the EPA is responsive to requests for advice and assistance in a timely manner when dealing with environmental hazards, to ensure appropriate and timely action is taken where necessary to minimise environmental impacts resulting from events and accidents.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this input into the EPA inquiry.

Yours faithfully,

Jim Nolan

Chief Executive Officer

Pyrenees Shire Council