

19 March 2008

Commercial Law E-alert

31 March 2008: Deadline for Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans

The Environment Protection (Environment and Resource Efficiency Plans) Regulations 2007, require that any industrial and commercial business or site in Victoria, that consumes more than 120 ML of water annually or 100 TJ of energy annually, register an Environment and Resource Efficiency Plan (EREP) to minimise use of water and energy and generation of waste, with the Victorian Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Businesses may self-assess their resource use and register for the EREP program online at http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/bus/erep/erep_online_registration.asp

If a business or site meets the threshold limits then registration for the EREPs program is mandatory. If the captured site is already participating in other resource efficiency schemes, such as WaterMAP or Energy Efficiencies Opportunities, then EPA may provide a full or partial exemption, or decide that the existing program be included as part of the EREP for that site. Sites and companies that are currently under the thresholds may participate voluntarily in the EREP program. The deadline for registration is 31 March 2008.

Once registered, participating companies will need to prepare a plan that identifies actions to reduce consumption of water and energy consumption and generation of waste. Plans must have a payback period of 3 years or less and must be submitted to the EPA by 31 December 2008. Participants must then report on performance of the site annually.

For more information, please contact Andrew Hawking, Senior Associate, on 86029240.

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