

# Media Release

## Environment Protection Authority



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### **EPA penalty for United Water**

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has successfully imposed a Civil Penalty on United Water International Pty Ltd for an incident which occurred on 10 March 2010. The incident involved 800 kilolitres of waste water overflowing from Anstey Hill Water treatment plant into part of Dry Creek.

The Civil Penalty settled earlier this week was for \$2475 plus EPA technical costs of \$4070.

A Civil Penalty is a regulatory provision provided for under the Environment Protection Act 1993 as an alternative to criminal prosecution. This is the sixth civil penalty imposed since new legislation introduced in July 2006 gave the EPA the power to negotiate civil penalties.

The incident occurred when a steel bracket housing an electronic sensor within a sludge tank failed due to corrosion and allowed waste water to overflow into the local creek.

An investigation undertaken by the EPA found that United Water International had breached the Environment Protection Act 1993 by causing environmental nuisance when the wastewater travelled along the creek depositing a large amount of clay sludge in the creek bed for approximately three kilometres, resulting in an unsightly and offensive condition.

“United Water International has acknowledged that there was no preventative maintenance program in place to prevent this type of incident from occurring and subsequently implemented changes to prevent any further discharges.

“As South Australia’s leading environmental regulator it is our role to protect the local environment and whilst harm was short term the penalty reflects the importance of having proper environmental management procedures in place to prevent pollution,” said EPA Acting Chief Executive Tony Circelli.

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