



MEDIA RELEASE

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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Houseboat wastewater- no longer a grey area

The Environment Protection Authority is moving towards finalising the *Code of Practice for Vessel and Facility Management: Marine and Inland Waters*.

The Code requires all operators of vessels producing greywater, which is wastewater from kitchen sinks, showers, spa baths, washing machines and dishwashers, to implement measures to avoid environmental harm.

For many operators, this may require the installation of a fitted holding tank or a treatment system. While for small vessels, the code may require operators to adopt behavioral changes such as minimising the use of cooking oils and being conscious of separating food stuffs from washing water.

EPA Chief Executive Dr Paul Vogel said for the past number of years, the EPA has consulted with a variety of stakeholders concerning the management of greywater in the River Murray.

"Most vessel operators would like to see improvements made to the current situation where greywater is being discharged straight into the River Murray.

"Although greywater discharge from houseboats is a comparatively low contributor to the overall river water quality, it is still a source of pollution which has the potential to cause risks to human health.

Dr Vogel said the EPA in conjunction with the Boating Industry Association of South Australia (BIASA), Galaxy Houseboats, Houseboat Concepts and Mannum Marine, is currently trialling two locally manufactured vessel greywater treatment systems before finalising the new Code of Practice.

"The results of the greywater treatment systems will be made available at the completion of the trials in September. Vessel operators will then be advised of their obligations under the Code of Practice which will include a timeframe for compliance to acknowledge the economic and social implications of introducing new standards."

BIASA General Manager Glen Jones said the fragility of our waterways in South Australia makes it even more important to consider and protect the environment every time you get out onto the water.

"We are pleased to see action taken towards reducing impacts from boating along all inland waters, but in particular the River Murray and lakes.

"To be involved in a cooperative effort between government, industry and the community in general is most rewarding," said Mr Jones.