



## MEDIA RELEASE

### ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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#### **EPA releases pesticide handbooks**

The EPA has released a set of handbooks to assist South Australian spray contractors to use pesticides safely and efficiently.

A statewide mail out is taking place for Water Week this October, where two pesticide handbooks will reach the majority of spray contractors in the State.

The handbooks were developed in consultation with industry and provide necessary advice on how to reduce the environmental impacts from spraying pesticides.

EPA Manager of Water Quality, Andrew Solomon says that if pesticides are not used properly, they can contaminate land and pollute watercourses.

“Pesticides and other chemicals can be transported in run-off into our waterways after rainfall. It’s important to take precautionary measures when using pesticides to ensure this doesn’t happen”.

“Pesticides should be viewed as a useful tool to help manage pest problems, but when they are not used safely or efficiently, they can become an environmental hazard,” said Mr Solomon.

Mr Solomon reassures operators and land owners that using the pesticide handbooks will help meet compliance standards with the *Environment Protection Act 1993* and the *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003*.

Vice President of the Ground Sprayers Association of South Australia, Andy Byrne said the handbooks are an important reference for industry.

“Sprayers can be confident that these handbooks have been designed in collaboration with the industry. The handbooks reflect the knowledge, processes and expectations within the industry. They are a credible and valuable resource”.

“The quality of our state’s water is vital as every drop counts and we don’t want to jeopardize it with pollution that can be easily avoided,” said Mr Byrne.

The SA Murray Darling Basin and the Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges Natural Resource Management Boards have sponsored the handbooks.

Any spray contractors who do not receive their copies of the handbooks can visit [www.epa.sa.gov.au](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au) or phone the EPA on (08) 8139 9900.

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This release is for Water Week (21-27 October)