



## MEDIA RELEASE

### ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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#### EPA conducts houseboat audit

The Environment Protection Authority is auditing houseboats on the River Murray from 14-15 November 2007.

The audit will take place around Morgan with houseboats being inspected to see if they have sewerage containment systems that are compliant with the EPA's Code of Practice for Vessels on Inland Waters (2003).

In May, a trial audit was conducted in the Renmark region where a total of 50 houseboats were audited.

EPA Acting Chief Executive Peter Dolan said the audit revealed that only two vessels had compliant systems, 31 vessels had a technical breach of some kind and 17 vessels were unattended, requiring officers to carry out the audit at a later date.

"It was most pleasing to see that all houseboats had a blackwater disposal system of some kind.

"It's important that all houseboats have compliant sewerage containment systems because if they don't, they risk contaminating the River Murray with waste.

"It could have a devastating effect on the river if every vessel leaked waste directly into the water," Mr Dolan said.

The EPA intends to carry out additional houseboat audits in 2008 as part of the River Murray and Lower Lakes Assessment Project.