



MEDIA RELEASE

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

28 November 2007

Civil penalty negotiated for environmental offence

The EPA has negotiated a \$3750 civil penalty with the SA Brewing Corporation for discharging approximately 200 litres of beer into the River Torrens in December 2006.

Following an investigation, the EPA served a notice on SA Brewing Corporation in August this year, advising of its intention to negotiate a civil penalty.

In July 2006 new legislation gave the EPA powers to negotiate civil penalties with alleged environmental offenders as an alternative to criminal prosecutions.

EPA Regulation and Compliance Director Tony Circelli said the penalty in this case was appropriate for the size and impact of the spill, which caused an unsightly white scum and froth but did not have a long-term impact on the environment.

“Civil penalties can only be used for less serious offences, and benefits both the alleged offender and the Government by avoiding the expense and additional time involved in court proceedings.

“The negotiated civil penalty significantly reduces the time between an incident and the penalty, which is consistent with a community expectation for prompt punishment of offenders.

“Criminal proceedings will continue to be pursued for more serious offences,” Mr Circelli said.

South Australia is the first State or Territory to adopt the negotiated civil penalty tool for environment protection. A similar system has been successfully used in the United States for more than 25 years.