

## Media Release

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### EPA welcomes decision in significant asbestos breach

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has today welcomed the Environment Resource and Development (ERD) Court's decision in sentencing SA Demolition & Salvage Pty Ltd for breaching the *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

SA Demolition & Salvage Pty Ltd was today convicted for transporting more than one tonne of unwrapped and unsealed non-friable asbestos in an open topped truck trailer to its depot on South Road at Hindmarsh. The company was also operating its yard as a waste depot without a licence. The company was fined \$28,000, ordered to pay \$160 Victims of Crime levy and pay costs of \$900.

The conviction follows an EPA surveillance operation where EPA officers conducted an audit in July 2016 at the Hindmarsh SA Demolition & Salvage depot.

EPA Acting Manager Investigations and Waste Compliance, Tania Kiley said the outcome demonstrates the seriousness of this case and is a timely reminder to all operators to ensure they are complying with their EPA licence conditions.

"The removal, transport and disposal of asbestos is treated seriously in South Australia," she said.

"All licensed removalists and transporters need to ensure that they comply with licence conditions and provide accurate information to the EPA. The completion of waste transport certificates is a requirement of a standard licence condition and enables the EPA to ensure that hazardous waste such as asbestos is collected, transported and disposed of in a manner that is a safe and controlled to prevent impact to the public," she said.

In sentencing today Judge Costello said operators need to take responsibility for their operations under their licence requirements.

"The potential for environmental harm to occur, particularly where a potentially dangerous material like asbestos is involved, cannot be underestimated," he said.

"It could, and should have been far more pro-active in ensuring that its practices complied with the requirements of the Act and its licence," Judge Costello said.

There are serious penalties for non-compliance or illegally dumping asbestos contaminated material in South Australia, with a maximum penalty of \$500,000 and/or 4 years imprisonment for an individual, or a maximum of \$2,000,000 for a body corporate.

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