

Tuesday, 9 June 2020

Operator receives record fine of more than \$56,000 for illegal processing of waste in Para Hills West

A skip bin and demolition company has been fined a total of \$56,361 for the processing and storage of waste, including asbestos, at an unauthorised site at 1415 Main North Road, Para Hills West.

Destiny Contracting Pty Ltd and DeJay Contracting Pty Ltd entered pleas of guilty to jointly undertaking a prescribed activity of environmental significance without a licence on two occasions in September 2017 and November 2018 at Para Hills West.

EPA Manager Investigations Stephen Barry said the site was sorting commercial quantities of building waste, including storing asbestos, without regulation or authorisation.

“Our investigators undertook an intelligence-led investigation of the site and operators involved in the illegal receipt and sorting of waste at the site”, Mr Barry said.

“Whilst inspecting a shed, investigators also found several bags of varying amounts of asbestos-containing materials, with some of those bags were not sealed.”

Mr Barry said although the operators had now improved the operation to regulated requirements and been granted a licence for the site, the risks to the local community prior to these improvements were unacceptable.

“Unauthorised and unregulated storage and sorting of any waste in built-up areas poses multiple risks to public safety,” Mr Barry said, “and when asbestos is part of this unauthorised process, the risk to public safety is substantial.”

“This is a timely reminder that those undertaking illegal activity in the waste sector will be identified, and the consequences of doing so are significant.”

Commercial operations observed illegally storing, sorting or dumping any kinds of waste can be reported to the EPA on 8204 2004 (regional callers 1800 623 445) or emailed to epainfo@sa.gov.au