

---

Tuesday, 2 May 2022

## Penalty for shipping giant over fuel spill

BP Shipping Limited has agreed to pay a civil penalty of more than \$48,000 over a hose failure that caused a jet fuel spill at Largs Bay.

The UK-registered company will pay a total of \$65,319 for the penalty and technical expenses, plus almost \$11,000 for legal costs.

The February 2020 spill led to multiple public complaints to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) about odours and health effects from the fumes, and the EPA said the company had not taken all reasonable steps to prevent the hose failure.

EPA Chief Executive Tony Circelli said an assessment of the incident by an independent environmental consultant had supported the impacts reported by the 16 people who complained or made reports to the EPA.

“After an investigation the EPA was satisfied that BP Shipping had caused material environmental harm through the odours from the spilled fuel affecting the community,” Mr Circelli said.

The BP Shipping vessel British Engineer was moored at the Australian Terminals Operations Management terminal at Largs Bay, transferring Jet A-1 fuel to the Mobil onshore terminal on 29 February 2020.

The pressurised liquid chemical hose failed at the British Engineer’s discharge point, sending an unknown quantity of fuel onto the deck of the vessel and into the Port River.

The EPA negotiated a civil penalty as an alternative to criminal prosecution.

The penalty was reduced on BP Shipping’s submissions of its good compliance record, having had no previous enforcement action by the EPA in South Australia.

The company took immediate action to clean up the spill and later ceased the use of flexible hoses for cargo operations. It will pay the civil penalty of \$48,128, \$10,964.25 for legal expenses and \$17,191.64 in technical expenses.