

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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1 September 2015

EPA Authorised Officers training in Whyalla

Whyalla City Council is ramping up its capacity to crack down on illegal dumping and deter people from causing pollution that may be harmful to the environment and a nuisance to local communities.

The EPA is conducting an inaugural training course this week involving four people from the Whyalla City Council, four from Natural Resources Management (Eyre Peninsula) and one person from the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula, to be appointed Authorised Officers under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (EP Act).

EPA Executive Director Operations Andrew Wood said this exercise demonstrates an effective partnership between state and local governments by working cooperatively to tackle illegal dumping in regional communities.

“The three-day course beginning today, is being led by the EPA Investigations and Tactical Support Branch (ITSB) which deals with the most serious breaches of EP Act and provides support in other areas including compliance and enforcement matters,” Mr Wood said.

“This year alone, the EPA prosecuted a man who was fined more than \$20,000 for dumping concrete waste on private land and ignoring an Environment Protection Order, in addition to an earthmoving director who was fined a total of \$26,000 for threatening and abusing EPA officers.”

The Whyalla City Council has been proactive in its response to illegal dumping by vowing to take a tough stance.

Mayor Jim Pollock said this issue had been an ongoing concern for the council “over a long period of time”.

He said illegal dumping has been taking place in areas near Mount Laura, vacant lots, street curbs and in charitable organisations’ collection bins.

The Council has also been using mobile CCTV cameras to monitor areas where illegal dumping has been prevalent.

Authorised officers can be appointed by the EPA to enforce the EP Act.

The maximum penalty for illegal dumping or the “unlawful disposal of waste” under EP Act is a \$120,000 fine or two years’ imprisonment.

There is also a maximum penalty of \$30,000 for “creating an environmental nuisance”.

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