

# Media Release

## Environment Protection Authority



GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001  
250 Victoria Square Adelaide SA  
T (08) 8204 2000 F (08) 8204 2020  
Country areas 1800 623 445

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## Convicted and fined for waste dumped on public land

A 29 year-old man who admitted to illegally dumping more than 60 tonnes of construction waste contaminated with asbestos, has been convicted and fined in the Environment, Resources and Development Court.

Geoffrey Michael Ashurst of Nairne, who pleaded guilty to two counts of unlawful disposal of waste was fined \$7,200 and ordered to pay \$800 in costs in addition to \$160 for a Victims of Levy.

He was prosecuted under the *Environment Protection Act 1993*, for disposing waste without permission on a public land at Pyrites Road and McIntyre Road, Dawesley, on February 7, 2015.

Mr Ashurst was also issued an Environment Protection Order (EPO) and complied with it by removing the material and transporting it to a licensed waste site.

In court today, he expressed remorse by apologising to the judge for his actions.

EPA Manager Investigations and Tactical Support Stephen Barry said illegal dumping of any material, disregards other people's rights and is an unacceptable method of disposing waste that can cause harm to the amenity of a property.

"In this case, the incident was first reported to the Mount Barker Council which worked closely with the EPA to identify the source of the construction waste that ultimately led to a prosecution," Mr Barry said.

"I hope that this outcome will send a clear message to those who don't treat illegal dumping as a serious offence, to think again."

The maximum penalty for unlawful disposal of waste under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* is a \$120,000 fine or 2 years' imprisonment.

Illegal dumping of waste can be reported to local councils or the EPA Hotline on 8204 2004 or 1800 623 445.

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**For further information please contact Chris Metevelis: 0439 137 641**