

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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\$50,000 fine for diesel spill

Citrus fruit distributor Lochert Bros Pty Ltd was convicted and fined \$50,000 in the Environment Resources and Development Court yesterday for causing serious environmental harm between July and December 2006.

This follows the successful prosecution of Lochert Bros by the EPA earlier this year.

The court found that serious environmental harm occurred when 57,800 litres of diesel leaked to groundwater from an underground pipe between a fuel tank and bowser at its property in the Riverland.

According to EPA Director of Strategy and Sustainability Tony Circelli, the judgment brings to a close a long running, complex matter involving groundwater contamination, a three-year remediation program and a 'not guilty' plea by the offender.

"This case highlights the need for property owners and occupiers to be more diligent in checking storage tanks and ensuring all infrastructure with potential to pollute is effectively monitored, and any discrepancies, such as missing quantities of fuel, are checked by people with relevant expertise.

"The EPA expects that any business storing pollutants will have considered the risk to the environment if there was to be a leak or spill, and have procedures in place to detect any loss and clean up spills", said Mr Circelli.

Under the Environment Protection Act 1993 a person who causes serious environmental harm by polluting the environment is guilty of an offence.

In addition to the \$50,000 fine the EPA will also recover \$10,800 in technical costs.

For further information please contact the EPA Senior Media Officer: 0434 609 394