

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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EPA LAUNCHES COMPLIANCE PROGRAM FOR VESSEL WASTEWATER

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has launched a compliance and enforcement program to assist in the implementation and completion of the new vessel wastewater regulations as set out in the Code of Practice for Vessel and Facility Management (marine and inland waters).

The new vessel wastewater regulations were introduced in 2008 and require owners of all commercial and private vessels operating on inland waters to either contain or treat greywater on board their vessel.

According to EPA Director of Science and Assessment Peter Dolan, 60% of commercial vessels along the River Murray are now complying with the code.

“Taking into account the extreme environmental challenges that the State has dealt with in recent years, including one of the most severe droughts, this compliance rate is extremely pleasing.

“Some operators have had to make significant changes to the way they manage their wastewater.

“However we are aiming for equity across the industry and having already extended the implementation dates, it is now time for the remaining commercial operators to comply,” said Mr Dolan.

The EPA’s Senior Compliance Officer is now working in the region and is following-up with non-compliant vessel owners and providing a presence amongst the boating community. Environment Protection Orders (EPO’s) and court orders will be issued to vessel owners that continue to not comply.

“This program is about ensuring we minimise any harm to the environment by implementing reasonable and practicable measures. Untreated greywater can have impacts on water quality and public health through high bacterial loads, nutrient discharge, biological oxygen demand and salinity” said Mr Dolan.

Letters have also recently been sent to private vessel owners reminding them of their obligations under the Code of Practice and it is planned to continue conducting random audits throughout the year to monitor compliance progress of the houseboat industry.

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