

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

19 September 2014

EPA negotiates civil penalty

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has finalised a negotiated civil penalty of \$42,656.25 with the Central Adelaide Local Health Network, in relation to an alleged incident at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) on 1 June 2013.

A civil penalty is a regulatory provision under the *Environment Protection Act, 1993*, as an alternative to criminal prosecution. It enables the EPA to negotiate a civil penalty directly with an individual or corporation who has committed the offence, in this case, causing environmental harm.

The incident, which gave rise to the penalty, happened when leaking water shorted a switch on the steam boiler diesel header tank, located on the roof of the kitchen building at the QEH. This caused a pump to continuously run, and overflow a diesel header tank.

Approximately 2,000 litres of diesel was discharged from the breather pipe of the header tank onto the roof, directly into a stormwater drain, and to the adjacent stormwater network which the EPA alleges, caused material environmental harm.

EPA Executive Director Operations Andrew Wood said that the EPA was pleased that an agreement with the QEH had been reached in relation to this matter, adding: "The Central Adelaide Local Health Network has acknowledged that human error played a large part in this incident which caused the diesel spill into the stormwater network."

He said: "As South Australia's leading environmental regulator, it is our role to protect the local environment and to ensure that individuals and corporations, private and government, are fully aware of their responsibility to have proper systems and procedures in place to minimise the likelihood of pollution incidents."

"While the harm was short-term, the penalty reflects the importance of having proper environmental management procedures in place to prevent pollution".

For further information please contact Ros Agate: 0434 609 394