

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Demolition company fined for illegal dumping

The operator of a demolition company who admitted to dumping asbestos-contaminated waste on a private property at Two Wells without the owner's permission, has been sentenced in the Environment, Resources and Development Court.

Troy Batters, of Davoren Park, pleaded guilty to two counts of unlawful disposal of waste which occurred between 3-7 July last year, on a private property at Middle Beach Road, in Two Wells.

The court was told yesterday that the property owner had not given anyone permission to dispose demolition waste on his vacant land and contacted the EPA to investigate the illegal dumping.

The EPA discovered that the waste had been deposited by TDL Demolition, which is owned by the defendant and is a business involved in house demolition, asbestos removal and site clean-ups.

The court heard that TDL Demolition had been contracted to assist in the demolition of a property at Dernancourt with Mr Batters and an employee having taken the demolition waste from that property and later dumping it at the Two Wells property.

Judge Costello was told at the direction of Mr Batters, that his employee had dumped six loads of rubbish at this property totalling just over 54 tonnes, containing construction and development waste that was mixed with non-friable asbestos.

In September last year, the EPA issued TDL Demolition an Environment Protection Order to clean up the Two Wells property which was done at a cost of \$2,075 to remove and properly dispose the illegally dumped waste.

Mr Batters was fined by the court \$9,600 on two counts of illegally dumping waste, in addition to \$800 for legal fees. He was also ordered to pay \$160 towards a Victims of Crime Levy.

The judge also indicated that if Mr Batters had contested the charges and was found guilty by the court, he would have instead been ordered to pay a \$16,000 fine.

EPA Manager Investigations & Tactical Response, Stephen Barry, said this case reflects a community expectation of a very low tolerance for illegal waste dumping.

"This judgement will hopefully reinforce the severity of this behaviour and that there are significant consequences for anyone who is complacent towards their responsibilities and disregard the law when it comes to dumping waste materials," Mr Barry said.

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