

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Civil penalties for containers cash

The EPA has recently negotiated two civil penalties totalling more than \$20,000 involving companies that breached their licence conditions.

The first case involved the Director of a Para Hills transport company who has agreed to pay a civil penalty of almost \$6,000 for obtaining an illegal benefit from South Australia's Container Deposit Scheme.

The settlement was negotiated by the EPA after Michael Belperio from Spectrum Transport Systems admitted to his company's liability over an incident that took place last year.

This is the first negotiated civil penalty for containers since the introduction of container deposit legislation in South Australia in 1977.

An EPA investigation found that Mr Belperio had directed an employee of his company to cash-in more than 2,400 beverage cans.

The employee was subsequently paid a total refund of \$243.30 by the Scout Recycling Centre at Greenfields.

The EPA later determined that the cans were not purchased in South Australia and therefore not authorised for a refund, contravening the Environment Protection Act 1993.

Mr Belperio agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$5,890.50 and to return the containers to their state of origin, Queensland.

The EPA also negotiated another civil penalty of almost \$15,000 with Integrated Waste Services (IWS) after the company admitted to a breach of its licence conditions.

Between November 2011 and July 2013, IWS received grease trap waste, liquid waste and sludge at its Wingfield site, in contravention of its EPA licence.

An EPA investigation found that although this caused no environmental harm, the company had purposely constructed special ramps to accept liquid waste at its site without licence approval.

This resulted in a negotiated penalty of \$14,850.

EPA Executive Director Operations Andrew Wood, said both cases clearly demonstrate there is no tolerance for companies that flout the conditions of their licence under the Environment Protection Act 1993.

"This is a good outcome and hopefully sends a strong message to others in the community, especially for the beverage industry that makes a significant contribution towards South Australia's Container Deposit Scheme," Mr Wood said.

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