

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Prison sentence for recidivist illegal dumper

A Devon Park man has been sentenced to a term in prison for repeatedly dumping building and construction waste on public land over a two-year period.

This is the first time that a jail sentence has been imposed by a South Australian court for illegally dumping waste under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* and marks the end of a significant investigation for the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Gabriel Paul Ivanyi, aged 40, was sentenced in the Environment, Resources and Development (ERD) Court today after pleading to 12 counts of unlawful disposal of waste and for failing to comply with an Environment Protection Order to clean up the waste.

He was previously found guilty in the Port Adelaide Magistrates Court in May 2012, for illegally dumping waste in December 2011 but despite his conviction, continued to illegally dump building construction waste between December 2012 and May 2013.

During this period, Mr Ivanyi was captured by a covert surveillance camera illegally dumping waste on numerous occasions at a site in Pedder Crescent, Regency Park.

The EPA having issued him a warrant in April 2013 and was interviewed by investigating officers, but he continued to illegally dispose building waste at another site at Gillman on 8 May, 2013.

EPA Manager Investigations & Tactical Support, Stephen Barry, said that Mr Ivanyi demonstrated a blatant disregard for the *Environment Protection Act* with a significant cost to the environment, waste disposal business and the general amenity of the dumping sites.

“This is a landmark case with the first custodial sentence delivered in South Australia for an environmental offence of this nature and the culmination of a significant protracted investigation by the EPA,” Mr Barry said.

“These offences also undermined legitimate competitors in the salvage and disposal industry by undercutting their costs through unlawful disposal methods.”

The properties where the illegal dumping took place are owned by SA Water, the Australian Rail Track Corporation and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI).

Judge Jack Costello imposed a sentence of four months and two weeks but suspended for two years with a \$100 good-behaviour bond.

In his sentencing remarks, Judge Costello said that the nature of this offending was too serious to avoid a prison sentence.

He also ordered Mr Ivanyi to pay \$44,000 in clean-up costs and \$160 for a Victims' of Crime Levy.

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