

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority

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\$28K fine for illegal dump operator

An Adelaide company has been convicted and fined \$28,000 for operating a waste depot at Mount Compass without an environmental licence.

Nasim Pty Ltd pleaded guilty to the charge in the Environment, Resources and Development Court earlier this month.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) estimated that at least 2,000 tonnes of contaminated waste soil was illegally dumped on a private property at Mount Compass, between 3 and 6 January, 2012.

It had been alleged that the soil was excavated from a petrol station redevelopment on the corner of Marion Road and Anzac Highway, Plympton and transported to Mount Compass.

In his sentencing remarks today, Judge Jack Costello said that the company had not verified the level of contamination that was present in the soil despite its prior knowledge and had not applied for a licence to operate a waste depot.

But Judge Costello said that subsequent testing of the soil found that the contamination was not at levels to cause environmental harm.

“The regulatory regime which requires individuals wishing to receive and dispose of waste to apply for and obtain an authorisation, has been put in place for very good reasons,” Judge Costello said.

“Those who seek to avoid their responsibilities in this regard undermine the regime and put at risk the very environment the regime is designed to protect,” he said.

EPA Chief Executive Tony Circelli said this case demonstrates the consequences of a company ignoring correct procedures by failing to apply for a licence to operate a waste depot.

“This case was also significant in that this company had been aware that at least some of the soil that was transported to Mount Compass was contaminated, although at low levels, and had not notified the EPA,” Mr Circelli said.

“This result is a credit to the EPA officers who successfully prosecuted this case.”

Nasmin Pty Ltd was also ordered to pay a Victims of Crime Levy of \$160.

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