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EPA disrupts large illegal waste operations

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA), with the assistance of the South Australia Police (SAPOL), National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) and local government, has disrupted the illegal transporting of waste and the operation of an illegal waste depot in Sedan, North East of Adelaide.

A number of search warrants were executed at a business and residential premises across metropolitan and regional South Australia in relation to the illegal activities.

EPA Chief Executive Tony Circelli says this has been a complex investigation with significant outcomes and serves as a warning to those who operate illegally in the waste industry.

“This four-month long investigation has involved extensive surveillance and resources. We have drawn on the special powers warrants recently introduced under the *Environment Protection (Waste Reform) Amendment Act 2017*.

“This law allows the EPA to better regulate waste generated from construction, demolition and earthworks to ensure appropriate and safe transport and disposal.

The lawful South Australian waste industry provides an essential service for our community and businesses managing around 4.5 million tonnes of waste annually and being responsible for around 5,000 jobs. The legitimate industry works to meet required environmental standards and supports our leading recycling culture.

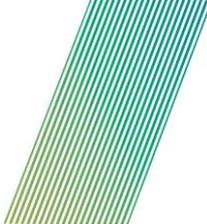
“The EPA is committed to maintaining confidence in existing and planned investments by ensuring that unlawful operations are brought to account and do not undercut sound operations.

“If you wish to participate in the waste industry, you will be required to fulfil its obligations within the requirements of the Act, licence conditions and the law,” Mr Circelli said.

The EPA-led operation resulted in the identification of more than one thousand tonnes of construction and demolition waste at the Sedan property and the identification of asbestos containing material within the illegally disposed construction waste.

The Waste & Recycling Industry Association of SA (WRISA) President Jim Fairweather says that there is no place in the waste, recycling and resource recovery industry for illegal or poor quality operators who tarnish the reputation of the industry as a whole.

“In addition to the obvious environmental risks, illegal operations also pose risks to workers and public safety and must be shut down.



Media release



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WRISA supports the work of the EPA in upholding environmental standards and licence conditions as steps towards helping to maintain a waste and recycling industry that has the public's confidence," Mr Fairweather said

The EPA is conducting air monitoring at the site. No airborne asbestos has been detected.

Four waste vehicles belonging to the transporter were also inspected, examined and defected.

The investigation also found that there has been a breach of an Environment Protection Order (EPO) issued recently to the transporter.

"This operation is a great demonstration of the new powers and collaboration across multiple agencies working together to target the illegal operators and support the legitimate waste Industry," Mr Circelli said.

The EPA has interviewed a number of waste transporters and operators in relation to the illegal activities.

The investigation is continuing.

For more information about asbestos visit the website [asbestos website](#)