
Friday, 17 September 2021

Port Adelaide shipyard convicted for licence breaches

Adelaide Ship Construction International (ASCI) has been convicted and fined \$25,200 for two breaches of its Environment Protection Authority licence in 2019.

Judge Durrant in the Environment, Resources and Development Court found ASCI had breached section 45(5) of the *Environment Protection Act 1993* by not complying with its licence conditions.

ASCI entered guilty pleas last month to both counts, which related to work carried out on its Port Adelaide slipway at the Port River.

On 11 June 2019, ASCI employees were water blasting the red hull of a tugboat and red liquid was seen running from the slipway into the Port River. Following a report from the community EPA officers observed this red material on the slipway the following day and ASCI employees confirmed they had carried out water blasting.

The EPA investigation found ASCI breached its licence requirement to 'take all reasonable and practicable measures to prevent wastewater or contaminated stormwater from discharging onto and/or into the water'. The wastewater contained anti-fouling paint, toxic to marine life.

The second charge by the EPA related to the condition that the company 'must ensure that every employee, agent or contractor responsible for undertaking any activity regulated by the licence is informed as to the conditions of the licence'.

Three employees interviewed by the EPA said they were not aware of ASCI's licence conditions. This was confirmed by an ASCI director who also admitted he was not aware of the conditions.

The company had elected to be prosecuted rather than receive an expiation.

EPA Acting Director Regulation Andrew Pruszinski said: "This is a timely reminder to all licensees to ensure they comply with their EPA licence, and that their staff are aware of the licence and the conditions as they relate to the activities conducted on the site".

Judge Durrant also ordered ASCI to pay \$1,000 in prosecution costs.