

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



GPO Box 2607 Adelaide SA 5001
250 Victoria Square Adelaide SA
T (08) 8204 2000 F (08) 8204 2020
Country areas 1800 623 445

Hefty new fines for illegally accepting waste

30 November 2010

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is alerting South Australian land owners that the maximum fine for illegally accepting waste on their land has been doubled.

The Waste to Resources Environment Protection Policy (EPP), which came into effect on 1 September, has increased the maximum penalties for illegally accepting or stockpiling waste to \$250,000 for a corporate body and \$120,000 for an individual.

The EPA investigates and prosecutes land owners where the receipt of waste on private property is found to constitute the conduct of a waste depot without a licence.

The EPA's Chief Executive, Ms Helen Fulcher said that under the Environment Protection Act the receipt and disposal of waste is an activity of environmental significance and therefore requires an EPA licence.

The Waste to Resources EPP also makes it illegal to accept waste on your property, or give permission to any one else to do so, if it:

- is into a sinkhole in a limestone environment
- causes environmental harm affecting water
- results in site contamination or environmental nuisance
- causes (or has potential to cause) unstable geotechnical conditions such as landslides, or soil erosion
- causes (or has potential to cause) an infestation of vermin, rodents or other pests
- is (or has potential to be) a fire hazard.

"Even if a person disposes of waste on another's land with consent and without breaching any of these conditions, the land owner or occupier may still be guilty of conducting a waste depot without a licence," Ms Fulcher said.

"On-farm disposal of waste has the potential to cause environmental harm and therefore we urge landowners to dispose of waste at licensed facilities. Common waste items accepted by land owners which breach the Act and the EPP include construction and demolition waste such as soil, bricks and concrete," she said.

"Furthermore, the disposal of fertiliser, on-farm animal health containers, agricultural and veterinary chemicals, asbestos and waste oil is not permitted."

"To ensure land owners do not breach the Environment Protection Act or the Waste to Resources EPP, we encourage land owners to contact the EPA to determine licensing requirements prior to accepting or disposing of any waste."

Farmers and land owners are encouraged to contact their local council for further information on waste disposal services including DrumMuster or the EPA on (08)8204 2004 or Freecall (for non-metropolitan callers only) on 1800 623 445.