

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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Fine issued for sediment discharge

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SA Water Corporation has been fined \$30,000 in the Environment, Resources and Development Court following the accidental discharge of sediment into two creeks in January 2008.

The incident occurred when two tanks were being cleaned on the Mannum to Adelaide pipeline, discharging more than 940,000 litres of sediment into the Palmer and Tungkillo waterways.

The discharges contained fine sediment and bivalve molluscs and caused an environmental nuisance, but did not result in any actual environmental harm.

SA Water spent \$49,000 on cleaning up the sites and both sites have recovered well from the incidents.

SA Water has regularly monitored both sites since the incident and has reviewed its tank cleaning procedures.

The court found that the sediment control devices were inadequate but that it was 'clear that the incident was accidental'. The penalty was based on the 'massive volume of sediment that was discharged' and the fact that the incident resulted in environmental nuisance.

SA Water pleaded guilty to the offence.

'SA Water has cooperated fully with the Environment Protection Authority throughout the incident and the clean-up process and we are pleased that no environmental harm has been caused,' Environment Protection Authority Chief Executive Helen Fulcher said.

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