



MEDIA RELEASE

ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTHORITY

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Illegal Sand Dumping in the River Murray

The illegal dumping of sand to build private beaches and boat ramps along the River Murray is causing environmental problems.

EPA Acting Chief Executive Peter Dolan said many people think that because there is already sand in the river, it's alright to add a bit more. But, the reality is that dumped sand isn't natural to the river and it harms the ecosystem.

"Wind, waves and water traffic quickly move the sand from where it has been dumped and redistributes it along the river.

"This causes problems for boating by creating uncharted sandbars and has the potential for blocking irrigation channels and water supply intakes.

"The additional sand also affects the breeding sites for fish, worms and other river species that rely on natural, healthy river beds for their survival," Mr Dolan said.

He said the EPA is working with the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation as well as local councils along the river to raise awareness of the problems that illegal sand dumping can cause.

"There are plenty of other options for creating easier water access such as the use of jetties, pontoons and approved beach-building materials. Anyone wanting to create access can contact their local council for information on how to apply for development approvals."

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