

EPA heavy handed tactics not necessary

Reports the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) are continuing to audit riverboat operators to limit illegal dumping of wastewater is welcomed, but "stronger enforcement" is not necessary.

"Any reasonable approach towards better water quality for the River Murray is welcomed," said Liberal Member for Hammond Adrian Pederick.

"Riverboat operators want to do the right thing by the river and they

support regulations that promote a responsible approach to environmental management.

"However when private riverboat operators are being forced to spend anywhere from \$15,000 upwards on greywater treatment facilities, the

EPA must have a level of patience.

"Scare tactics are not the sensible approach."

Several factors, including ongoing treatment system maintenance and incurred personal costs by riverboat operators, must be considered by the Government and the EPA when tackling this issue.

"The drought also caused a backlog for access to slipway services, with boat operators facing a wait of up to eight months," Mr Pederick said.

80% of commercial vessels and 60% of private vessels were compliant according to the EPA.

"The current statistics mean the greywater treatment program is on target and the audit process is working," Mr Pederick said.

"The Liberal Opposition calls for a practical approach considering the Weatherill Labor Government forced houseboat operators to bear such heavy burdens on adjustment alone."