



Government
of South Australia

Department of Water,
Land and Biodiversity
Conservation

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$18,000 FINE FOR STEALING WATER

An irrigator has been fined \$18,000 and ordered to remove his pumping equipment from the Bremer River after unlawfully taking water for use on his property at Hartley, in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges.

Irrigator Graeme Fischer was found guilty in the Environment Resources and Development (ERD) Court last Thursday (17 April 2008) of unlawfully taking water from the Bremer River contrary to a notice of prohibition.

At an earlier appearance in the Adelaide Magistrates Court he was also fined \$2500 (+ costs) for hindering compliance staff from the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC).

The court heard Mr Fischer illegally drew water from the Bremer River back in August 2006 contrary to the notice of prohibition in the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges.

In addition to the fine, the court ordered Mr Fischer to disconnect and remove pumping equipment from the River at Hartley.

DWLBC Chief Executive, Rob Freeman, said the penalty should serve as a warning for anyone illegally using water in South Australia.

"Management practices are put in place to protect South Australia's limited water resources," Mr Freeman said.

"This case highlights that if you decide to illegally take this limited resource the penalties are significant," he said.

Anyone with information about possible illegal underground, watercourse or surface water use in South Australia should contact the DWLBC Investigations Unit on (08) 8463 7941.

For further information about dams, water licences or permits, contact DWLBC on (08) 8463 6800, or visit www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au

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