

Minister Geoff Brock

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government

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\$750,000 upgrade for Renmark river vessel waste disposal station

The River Vessel Waste Disposal Station servicing river boats at Renmark will receive a \$750,000 upgrade next year.

Regional Development Minister, Geoff Brock said waste stations played a vital role in maintaining the health of the River Murray.

“The stations have holding tanks for boats to pump out their sewage and grey water reducing the amount of pollutants that go into the river— including disease-causing bacteria and nutrients that can cause algal blooms,” Mr Brock said.

“They also provide a place for boat operators to dispose of litter and hard rubbish.

“The station upgrade at Renmark – funded through the Save the River Murray Fund – will involve the modernisation of the off-shore structure and on-shore pumping system to cater for heavier vessels, and to increase capacity for liquid waste.

“There are 13 public waste stations on the river in South Australia and some don’t have adequate capacity to handle sewage from larger modern vessels.

“With about 3,000 houseboats currently registered in South Australia, the stations have been well used over the past 40 years.

“Demand from smaller boats has also increased, with EPA regulations requiring grey water and sewage from all river vessels be treated on-board or deposited at a waste station, rather than being released into the river.

“The upgrade of the Renmark waste disposal station will directly contribute to ensuring the State’s water supplies from the River Murray are adequate and safe for rural communities.

“Secure, reliable and good quality water supplies are essential to support healthy and productive industries, communities and ecosystems,” Mr Brock said.

Work on the Renmark RVWDS is expected to begin after Easter and be completed by July next year.

Alternative pump-out facilities will be provided for river vessels during the construction period, and information on these arrangements will be provided when construction begins.