



MEDIA RELEASE

Diesel Spill Cleaned Up At Bayview Haven

Approximately 100 litres of diesel fuel was cleared from the lock at Darwin's Bayview Haven today.

The joint operation involved NRETA's Environment Protection Agency, the Darwin Port Corporation and the Department of Planning and Infrastructure's Marine Safety branch.

Absorbent pads and low toxicity dispersants suitable for light fraction petroleum products were used to clear the diesel fuel.

EPA Senior Environmental Scientist Nigel Green said the environmental impact on the marina would be minimal although it would be monitored during coming days.

Mr Green said the diesel was first discovered last night by the Bayview Marina Lockmaster Adam Thacker but darkness prevented the operation beginning until this morning.

"Mr Thacker notified us through the Pollution Response Line after a quantity of diesel was found to have entered the recharge gates at the lock," Mr Green said.

"These gates open onto Sadgrove Creek when high tides reach 6.5m to allow for waters in Bayview Marina to reach equilibrium with the external water.

"Mr Thacker was advised that diesel had been seen in the marina and had manually closed the recharge gates, trapping the diesel within the marina.

"Darkness prevented us from doing anymore so this morning the operation kicked into top gear which included the use of the absorbent pads and dispersants.

"An investigation of areas outside the marina in the vicinity of Tipperary Waters, Fisherman's Wharf and Stokes Hill Wharf found no discernible levels of fuel on the water.

"An extensive search of the marina was carried out to establish where the diesel was and water currents within the marina had caused fuel to coalesce at areas where boats were moored and around the lock and other pontoon structures.

"No adverse environmental damage was noted although monitoring will continue to ensure all diesel fuel has appropriately been dealt with and there are no reports of fish kills or other environmental harm attributable to this event."

DPC Harbour Master Bruce Wilson said an investigation would be undertaken to determine the cause of last night's diesel spill.

The public can report a marine pollution incident by calling the Pollution Response Line on 1800 064 567.

Ends

Issued: 6.30pm Thursday, 3 November 2005