Information for project launch

Frequently Asked Questions

What is dumped rubbish?
Dumped rubbish refers to illegal dumping of waste in an industrial, commercial area, on private or public land. We encourage people to report illegal dumping to Council so we can identify sites and hold dumpers responsible for their actions, costing the community less. Residents who witness illegal dumping that may be harmful, for example asbestos or hazardous waste, should call Council.
Residents who witness illegal dumping should complete the Dumping Rubbish Online Request.
Examples of items include:

- Building and demolition waste
- Excavated material/soil
- Mattresses
- Household waste
- Vegetation/wood
- Tyres
- Furniture

Why is it a problem?

- **Dumped rubbish harms the environment**
  Illegal dumping causes chemical and physical pollution in our neighborhoods and waterways. It pollutes our waterways through the stormwater system and attracts vermin such as rats, mice and cockroaches breeding grounds for flies, mosquitoes. It also spreads weeds and can block stormwater drains.
- **It attracts additional dumping and other illegal behaviours**
  These areas become unattractive to the local community and property investors. Dump sites can lower property values and also attract other illegal activities. Even dumping old furniture is a problem because it may encourage others to dump more dangerous waste.

- **It can be a health and safety hazard**
  Dumped waste can be dangerous to people, particularly when it includes sharp objects, asbestos and glass. Risks involved with illegal dumping include sharp objects, asbestos, toxic substances, nappies and medical waste. Illegal dumps are fire hazards. Material left on road ways and footpaths is a hazard for motorists and pedestrians.

- **It’s costly to the Council and the community**
  Ratepayers’ money is spent each year on cleaning up illegally dumped rubbish. It also undermines legitimate waste businesses where unscrupulous operators undercut those operating within the law.

**How do I report illegal dumping?**
Regardless of whether the land is public or private, illegal dumping is a crime and should be reported.
You can report illegal dumping however your safety in a situation where someone may be illegally dumping is very important to us.

**Do not:**
- approach the vehicle or individuals who are illegally dumping
- let the illegal dumpers know you are there
- touch the waste - it may contain syringes, broken glass, asbestos, toxic chemicals or other hazardous substances
- disturb the site; there may be evidence that could help identify the person and lead to their prosecution
Do:

If you see someone dumping rubbish or littering make a note of:

- how many people are involved and what they look like
- what has been tipped - how much and what it looks like
- details of any vehicles involved including make, color and registration number if possible
- make a note of the day, date and time you saw the tipping, its exact location and whether it is in or near water
- where the waste is located/address
- any other information which may assist us in identifying the person/s who dumped the waste
- taking photos can also assist the investigation

How do I report littering from a vehicle? / How do I report litter from an uncovered load?

You can report the incident to Council via Customer Service Centre of lodge an online CRN request

You need to report the following details:

- vehicle registration details (number, state)
- description of the vehicle (type, make, model, color)
- date, time and location of the observation
- occupant of the vehicle who ejected the litter
- type of litter discarded or blown from the vehicle (for example, cigarette butt, bottle, plastic bottle).

Someone has dumped rubbish outside my house. Who can come and clean this up?

Report this to council. Penalties apply to anyone carrying out illegal dumping. The council can issue a clean-up notice to the polluter if they can be identified.
I have a no junk mail sign but I keep getting junk mail delivered—what can I do?
The Environment Protection Act 1970, has an unlawful delivery provision which states a person must not deliver unsolicited advertising material to a premises where it is clearly signed ‘No Junk Mail’, ‘Addressed Mail Only’, ‘Australia Post Only’ or words to similar effect.
You can report these matters to Council.

What is unsolicited advertising material?
Unsolicited advertising material includes any material that is used commercially for promotional purposes. It includes circulars, flyers, promotional matter, information or letters, newspapers, magazines and other publications distributed without a charge to intended recipients. Advertising material (other than newspapers) is unsolicited if it is not addressed by name to an owner or occupier of the premises, or to a person who is lawfully at the premises from time to time. This includes material addressed ‘to the householder’ or ‘to the occupier’.

Can I report shopping trolleys?
If you see an abandoned shopping trolley, it is recommended that you contact the local store about this. Many shopping centres have a direct telephone number or phone Apps to report lost trolleys and some have a reward system in place to encourage people to report the location of the trolley. The Trolley Tracker website allows people to report shopping trolleys Australia wide for their registered retailers. Reports can also be made to Trolley Tracker via phone 1800 641 497. Monthly draws of $1000-$2000 are awarded to one person who has lodged a report.

Can I make an anonymous report?
If you find an illegal dump pile you can report this anonymously.
An anonymous report cannot be accepted in relation to a vehicle/vessel for littering and illegal dumping. To enable compliance action or to stop delivery of junk mail or newspapers to your premises, an address must be supplied. This address will be disclosed to the distributor and deliverer for the purpose of rectifying compliance issues only.

What you can do?
We are all responsible for looking after our neighbourhood, so do your bit by disposing of your unwanted goods correctly.

*If it is your rubbish, it is your responsibility.*
View the Illegal Dumping brochure for comprehensive information on how to dispose of your unwanted goods appropriately.

If you have rubbish that can’t wait for hard rubbish day, and can’t be donated to charity, beware of rubbish removal companies and gardening/landscape contractors who undercharge for jobs and dump your waste in the bush. Always ask for a receipt from the tip.

What are Council doing about the problem of illegal dumping?
Council employs an Environmental Investigations Officer who regularly patrols the local area, investigating illegally dumped material and issuing Clean-up Notices and/or fines to illegal dumping offenders.

Focus on improving the local amenity, public health and safety and water quality of Edgars Creek

Summary of what the project is about, what the officer is going to be doing
- identify and patrol illegal dumping hotspots
- investigate illegal dumping incidents and take action against offenders
- organise clean-ups
- identify changes and trends in illegal dumping across a regional area
- deter and educate community members about illegal dumping

Illegal dumping project goals

- cleaning up waste and keeping areas free of illegal dumping
- deterring illegal dumpers
- detecting and prosecuting illegal dumpers
- engaging the community to help clean up waste and report illegal dumping
- encouraging the community to use local waste services

Illegal dumping – Your responsibilities under laws

Householders

- Leaving furniture or other household items on the roadside, nature strip or footpath is illegal dumping. You are responsible for ensuring your waste goes to a lawful waste facility. You can be fined or prosecuted for dumping waste or for failing to ensure a contractor or other person disposing of your waste takes it to a lawful facility
- Make sure your waste is going to the right place by retaining tip docketers or by asking for them from any person acting on your behalf
- If your waste doesn’t fit in your bin, contact your local council to find out what waste disposal options are available.
- It is illegal to dump waste outside charity bins or shops, or dump unsaleable items on charities. You can be fined or prosecuted for doing so. Try to recycle as much of your waste as possible, or contact your local charity if you think the items can be donated. To
avoid a fine, give your items to an attendant and they will tell you if they are acceptable donations.

Private land owners

- People and businesses that generate waste all have a legal responsibility to ensure that waste is transported to or disposed of at facilities that can lawfully receive that type of waste.
- Always request and retain tip dockets to show your waste has gone to the right place.
- The landowner or occupier, or land manager, must lawfully manage waste that has been illegally dumped on their land. This includes ensuring the waste is not a risk to the environment or human health while it is on your land, and ensuring the illegally dumped waste is transported to or disposed of at facilities that can lawfully receive that type of waste.
- Land owners can be fined, prosecuted and issued with a notice requiring clean-up of the waste if they don’t comply with the illegal dumping laws.

Someone has dumped rubbish on my land—who is going to clean it up?

The land owner or occupier of the land is responsible for the maintenance of the property, which includes cleaning up of any waste material.
If an investigation successfully identifies an individual or company responsible for the incident, the department or the respective local government may issue a notice to that individual, or company with an order to clean the site of the illegally dumped waste.
Fines and prosecution for illegal dumping
As at 1 July 2014, the value of a penalty unit is equal to $144 (approx.)
For example, the fine amount for an infringement of 2 penalty units is:
2 x $144 = $288.
On-the-spot fines are issued to individuals for the following amounts of
dumped waste:

Schedule of offence codes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offence Code</th>
<th>Brief Description</th>
<th>Act and Section</th>
<th>Penalty Unit(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2761</td>
<td>Fail to remove litter on request</td>
<td>8056, s. 45V</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2762</td>
<td>Deface receptacle for litter</td>
<td>8056, s. 45T(1)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2763</td>
<td>Set fire to receptacle for litter</td>
<td>8056, s. 45T(2)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2764</td>
<td>Have unsecured load on vehicle</td>
<td>8056, s. 45U(2)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2765</td>
<td>Deposit small item of litter</td>
<td>8056, s. 45E(t) / Schi</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2766</td>
<td>Deposit litter</td>
<td>8056, s. 45E(t) / Schi</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2767</td>
<td>Deposit burning litter</td>
<td>8056 s. 45E(1) / Schi</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2769</td>
<td>Deposit advertising material in/on any vehicle</td>
<td>8056 s. 45N(1)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2770</td>
<td>Require person to deposit advertising material</td>
<td>8056 s.45S</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2771</td>
<td>Fail to disclose name of distributor</td>
<td>8056 s. 45P(3)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2772</td>
<td>Fail to disclose name of depositor</td>
<td>8056 s. 45Q(2)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2773</td>
<td>Fail to comply with litter abatement notice</td>
<td>8056 s. 45ZB(3)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2775</td>
<td>Fail to supply information</td>
<td>8056 s. 45Z(7)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2776</td>
<td>Require another to convey unsecured load</td>
<td>8056 s. 45U(1)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5595</td>
<td>Incorrectly deposit unsolicited material</td>
<td>8056 s. 45L(1)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5596</td>
<td>Deposit unwanted advertising material</td>
<td>8056 s. 45M(2)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5597</td>
<td>Affix document without consent</td>
<td>8056 s. 450</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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For more serious offences, Council will consider prosecution with maximum penalties.