



## Put Waste in the Right Place

**Illegal dumping is bad for the environment, wildlife, and the community.**

### What is illegal dumping?

Illegal dumping is the placing, dumping, or tipping of waste larger than litter (small pieces of rubbish eg. cigarette butts) onto land or into water, instead of using an authorised method of collection or taking items to a waste disposal facility. It looks bad and causes detrimental effects to the environment.

This waste can vary from small bags of household rubbish to larger scale dumping of hazardous, commercial, construction and demolition waste materials, green waste, furniture or appliances. Illegal dumping often occurs in isolated areas, such as in bushland or on rural roads.

Illegal dumping can also include placing unwanted household items on a verge or footpath where there is no council collection.



### The impacts of illegal dumping

Wilful or negligent disposal of waste is wrong and often dangerous. It can cause damage to the environment and the community in the following ways:

- Harm human health
- Contaminate the environment and soil
- Poison plants and animals
- Smother native vegetation
- Introduce weeds into sensitive bushland
- Pollute waterways
- Degrade culturally sensitive environments
- Make public places unattractive and dangerous to use
- Create a fire risk and endanger people's lives by blocking emergency access
- Degrade land value
- Cost millions of dollars in taxpayer and ratepayer money each year to clean up
- Undermine legitimate businesses



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**DON'T WASTE.  
YOUR FUTURE.**



**SUSTAINABLE BATHURST**  
A BETTER FUTURE



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

CORRECT DISPOSAL

WASTE MINIMISATION

RECYCLING

LITTERING

ILLEGAL DUMPING



## How is illegal dumping enforced?

There is a range of penalties for people who are caught illegally dumping waste. The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) enforces strict laws relating to illegal dumping to ensure wrongdoers pay heavy penalties for potentially harming human health and the environment and deter dumpers from repeating the offence.

The Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 (POEO) is the primary piece of environmental legislation regulating illegal dumping in NSW. The POEO Act provides a tiered range of on-the-spot fines and maximum penalties for illegal dumping offences.

Fines can range between \$2,500 and \$500,000 for an individual and \$10,000 and \$2,000,000 for a corporation. If waste contains asbestos the maximum penalty doubles for individuals and corporations. Council can also recover clean-up costs from those responsible.

## How you can help

Always dispose of waste in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

## If you see it, report it

If you see illegally dumped waste in a public place you can report it to Council and from there it will be investigated and may result in a fine. Council will also arrange for the waste to be removed by those responsible or take steps to recover clean-up costs if possible.

## What information do you need to report?

- Date and time
- Location
- A description of the dumped waste

## Additional information may include:

- A photograph of the waste and the surrounding area
- Risks or possible risks to the environment or human health, for example if the waste contains batteries, broken glass, asbestos or other hazards
- Information which may assist in identifying the source of the waste, such as the number plate of a vehicle seen dumping waste. Please do not attempt to identify the person yourself by approaching them or by picking through the waste items.

Illegally dumped waste can be reported by contacting Council's Environment department on (02) 6333 6211 or contacting the EPA Environment Line on 131 555 or using the EPA online portal: [ridonline.nsw.gov.au](http://ridonline.nsw.gov.au)

## Do it for our planet

When waste materials are illegally dumped and left to degrade they can cause long-term pollution and contamination to our environment.

For local waste disposal options visit Bathurst Regional Council website: [bathurst.nsw.gov.au/services/waste-recycling](http://bathurst.nsw.gov.au/services/waste-recycling) or Planet Ark's Recycling Near You website: [recyclingnearyou.com.au](http://recyclingnearyou.com.au)

Our community deserve a clean and safe environment to live, work and play.

