



Know the Cost Be Part of the Solution

Litter can lead to land, water and air pollution.

What is litter?

Litter is small pieces of rubbish, and consists commonly of cigarette butts, plastic bags, food wrappers, drink containers, straws, and takeaway food packaging.

Littering occurs when small pieces of rubbish are placed on the ground, left in the wrong place or allowed to be blown or washed into public places. Allowing waste to be blown from a trailer or truck is treated the same as someone placing it on the ground deliberately.

The impacts of littering

Litter is one of the main causes of environmental pollution. Over time small amounts of litter can build up and contribute to a bigger problem, making our town, rivers, parks and reserves look unsightly. Windblown litter impacts our local environment as plastic litter in particular may take many years to break down.

The chemicals in cigarette butts can kill insects and animals that live in our rivers including fish and platypus. Packaging waste that has ended up in water can often look like food, and the lightweight nature of plastic causes it to float. Some birds

feed by skimming over water and can inadvertently consume it as a result. Other hungry animals can smell food in plastic containers and bags and this curiosity can cause them to get their heads, feet or wings entangled in littered items.

Litter can also have an impact on human health by spreading diseases. Germs can be transmitted through litter by people picking it up or accidentally injuring themselves on it. Litter on our streets can be a breeding ground for insects and rodents. Glass bottles that have been discarded in bushland can be extremely dangerous and start fires during hot weather.

Microplastics are tiny pieces of plastic and are the result of littered items breaking down. Natural processes, including direct sunlight cause materials to break apart. Microplastics keep breaking apart until they are like dust particles, easily spreading through our natural environment including waterways.

Cleaning up litter is expensive and takes up valuable time and resources that can be spent on other community needs.

AUGUST 2024

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



SUSTAINABLE BATHURST
A BETTER FUTURE



CIRCULAR ECONOMY

CORRECT DISPOSAL

WASTE MINIMISATION

RECYCLING

LITTERING

ILLEGAL DUMPING

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

CHOOSE TO REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

How is littering enforced?

Council has powers to enforce litter laws and issue fines, as do NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, NSW Police and the Department of Fisheries.

On the spot fines for individuals can range from \$160 to \$2,500 and up to \$10,000 for a corporation. Maximum penalties range from between \$5,000 to \$50,000 for individuals and up to \$100,000 for corporations.

Litter can be reported by contacting Council's Environment department on (02) 6333 6211 or online via the EPA website at epa.nsw.gov.au/litter

How you can help

To create a sustainable future we must all work together and lead by example. Small everyday actions all add up to have a positive impact on our planet.

Plastic and food packaging makes up the majority of littered rubbish. Studies show that people are less likely to litter in clean areas and that continued littering is more prevalent in areas where litter already exists.

Did you know that throwing rubbish into an overflowing bin is the same as littering? If you see an overflowing bin, find another bin that is not completely full, or take your rubbish home with you to dispose of in your kerbside bins. Overfilling the bin is a leading cause of litter which ends up in our waterways and on our roads. Enjoy the outdoors responsibly and never put rubbish into overflowing bins.

If transporting waste on the back of a ute or in a trailer, loads must be covered to secure and contain all materials so they do not blow or fall from your vehicle.

Do it for our planet

We can show care for our environment by not littering and by working together to keep our parks, streets and waterways clean.

- Choose to refuse single use plastics
- Take your own reusable coffee cup, water bottle and shopping bags when leaving the house
- Always put your rubbish in a bin
- Take your rubbish with you if no bin is available
- Cover your load when transporting waste to a disposal facility
- Keep a container in the car to collect rubbish
- Put your cigarette butt in a butt bin or ordinary litter bin when extinguished
- Take eligible drink containers to a Return and Earn facility
- Support businesses that have eco friendly practices and take responsibility for a product's 'end of life'
- Lead the change and inspire others to be kind to the environment

