

Illegal Dumping Factsheet

Illegal dumping is the unlawful deposit of any type of waste material that is 200 litres or more in volume. Commonly dumped items include household rubbish and garden waste, household goods (such as whitegoods, TV's, mattresses and furniture), building waste (construction and demolition materials), tyres, chemical drums and paint tins and asbestos. Leaving items on the footpath (outside of organised collection days) or outside a charity bin or shop is also classed as illegal dumping.

The Law:

- Illegal dumping is an offence under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 (the Act)*.
- Council has delegations under the Act for waste management through the provision of street bins, street cleaning operations, landfill operation, stormwater litter traps, as well as anti-litter awareness and education program.
- Should a person be found dumping illegally, Council has power to investigate the matter and undertake enforcement actions including issuing of infringement as well as compliance notice for the clean-up of the waste.
- If a person fails to comply with a compliance notice, they may face further penalties.

Effects of littering and Illegal Dumping:

Illegal dumping pollutes our environment and significantly diminishes the use, enjoyment and value of our public places – making our communities and natural areas look dirty and uncleaned for, unpleasant to be in, and less likely to be used by the public.

The poor and uncared for environment leads to more dumping, other illegal activities and antisocial behaviour. This, in turn, can lead to reduced community pride and property values.

Illegal dumping costs Queensland communities millions of dollars each year in waste management and clean-up expenses. Illegal dumping of items containing chemicals or asbestos can directly causes harm or injury to humans and wildlife, and major population.

Animals can also become entangled in dumped items leading to injury and death. Illegal dumping can also introduce pests and weeds into our natural area, block waterways and roads, causing flooding (by blocked drains and facilitate higher rates of erosion by smothering natural vegetation cover).

Be a Good Citizen:

- Keeping your waste with you until you can dispose of it in the appropriate bin and taking larger waste to the tip
- Ensure the items donated to charity are securely placed in the charity bin provided – if the items are too big to fit into the bin, drop it off in-store.
- Organise and or volunteer for community events for education, awareness and clean-up events against illegal.
- The Act allows for individual within the community to report offences and provide witness statements in relation to littering/ illegal dumping offences.



Dealing with the issue of littering and illegal dumping is everyone's business. Only through empowering and engaging the community will we achieve long-term behavioural improvements towards littering and illegal dumping.

For further information please contact:

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