



# Illegal Dumping & Littering Factsheet

Thousands of rubbish items such as construction materials, household goods, and abandoned cars are illegally dumped in our region every year which degrades our environment. Some people also believe placing green waste or lawn clippings in a Council Park or reserve is okay, however this is also classed as illegal dumping.

## Do NOT dump your rubbish:

- On the road side
- In bushland
- In our waterways
- At the beach
- In our parks
- In Council reserves
- In any public spaces
- Private land without authorisation

**Illegal Dumping and littering is an offence ... you could be prosecuted and fined up to \$8835.**

## Use the waste bins and facilities provided

There are dedicated waste disposal services available throughout the Bundaberg Region. Council manages the clean-up of illegal dumping and littering outside of its scheduled services however this is a regrettable waste of Council resources and ratepayers' money.

## What is illegal dumping?

The unlawful disposal of 200 litres or more of any type of waste in private or public land without authorisation including:

- Household rubbish
- Hazardous waste
- Garden waste
- Household goods (e.g. fridges, freezers, TVs, furniture, mattresses)
- Construction waste
- Fishing line and equipment
- Car bodies; motorbikes or bicycles
- Boats and motors
- Tyres; chemical drums and paint tins
- Asbestos and timber products

## What is Littering?

The unlawful disposal of any type of domestic or commercial waste material less than 200 litres in volume:

## Common littering items include:

- cigarette butts, drink bottles and fast food packaging being thrown out of a vehicle, boat or incorrectly disposed of
- material falling off a ute, trailer or truck due to being uncovered or poorly secured
- grass clippings swept into a gutter
- household goods left on the footpath
- Dangerous littering - e.g. throwing a lit cigarette butt into bushland, leaving a hypodermic needle in a park, or smashing a glass bottle on the footpath

## DOB in a Dumper!

If you see an illegal dump site or see someone dumping rubbish, you can report it to Council and they can investigate the matter further. You may be required to sign a statutory declaration. The kind of information Council will need to know includes:

- Address and exact location of illegal dumping. Give landmark details such as left of the gate, under the large gum tree etc.;
- Types of dumped materials, and whether you believe it constitutes a hazard;
- Date and time of dumping;
- Name and address of person(s) responsible (if known);
- Vehicle details e.g. Colour, Make and Registration number(s);
- Photographs of the incident (this may assist the prosecution).

Residents who notice littering or illegal dumping offences are encouraged to phone Council on 1300 883 699



### Why is it a big problem?

Littered or dumped waste has many negative environmental, social and economic impacts:

- Pollution of waterways;
- Health risks;
- Blockage of drains;
- Fire risks;
- Damage to flora and fauna;
- Death of animals;
- Attraction of vermin;
- Cleaning and disposal costs for rate payers; and
- It makes our community look unattractive.

### There is no excuse

The majority of general household waste can be removed via Council's supplied wheelie bins. There are several waste transfer and landfill facilities throughout the region for the safe disposal of goods. For locations and opening times please refer to council's website [www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au](http://www.bundaberg.qld.gov.au)

### Handy tips

- Unwanted clothes, shoes, linen and blankets and furniture in good repair can be donated to local charity groups for FREE
- Composting your garden waste with food scraps can create great mulch for your garden
- Sorting your waste into recyclable and general waste prevents recyclables going into the landfill

### The Law

The Queensland Government *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* sets out the penalties for littering and illegal dumping offences. Under this legislation the Bundaberg Regional Council adopted an Illegal Dumping & Litter Policy to raise community awareness; increase surveillance of known dumping sites; and investigate and prosecute illegal dumping and littering offenders (Up to \$130,550.00). Residents who notice littering and illegal dumping offences are encouraged to contact Council on 1300 883 699 or email [ceo@bundaberg.qld.gov.au](mailto:ceo@bundaberg.qld.gov.au)

