

# NSW Illegal Dumping Strategy 2017-21

This report card provides a snapshot of the key achievements made to date through the implementation of the NSW Illegal Dumping Strategy 2017-21. As the EPA continues to improve and promote its online tool, RIDonline for reporting illegal dumping, more incidents are being reported, but this does not necessarily mean illegal dumping is increasing. We continue to tackle the challenge of reducing all illegal dumping by 30% by 2020. We will report on the target as new data becomes available.



## Headline outcomes

EPA has funded **84** public land managers to target illegal dumping. This resulted in a **75%** reduction in illegal dumping in hotspot areas in round 4.

Public reporting now makes up **20%** of all reports in RIDonline.

### APPROACH: building an evidence base

The EPA has completed research to improve its understanding of illegal dumping behaviour and ensure programs are informed by strong evidence. We now have robust information around:

- knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of the construction and demolition industry around waste management, transport, and disposal
- behavioural drivers for householders when disposing of asbestos and obtaining fill
- the cost of illegal dumping to charities and local government
- the impact of councils' bulky waste services on illegal dumping
- the effectiveness of various interventions that target dumping on the kerbside and at charities.

Data and intelligence are collected through RIDonline, the annual Local Government Survey and waste tracking. Mapping, reporting and search functions have been enhanced in RIDonline with the addition of a case management system for RID squads, making the system easier to use and more effective. New guides and videos have also been developed to support users. Eighty-eight per cent of councils are now registered to use RIDonline, and there has been a 30% increase in private users in the last financial year.

### APPROACH: stakeholder engagement and capacity building

The EPA continues to build stakeholder relationships and to increase engagement in its programs to help ensure everyone has the knowledge and skills to create practical local and regional solutions.

- The NSW Government has provided \$6.5 million in funding to support five Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) squads and programs to tackle local illegal dumping across 33 member council areas. Since 2017, RID squads and programs have investigated 26,434 incidents. The EPA continued to provide training and professional development through the annual RID conference with all squads and programs attending.
- The EPA has continued to support the construction industry to manage its waste correctly, by running workshops, engaging with industry bodies and holding education sessions at builders' breakfasts.

- The EPA has built a strong relationship with the National Association of Charitable Recyclers Organisation (NACRO) and has developed and released a Charitable Recyclers Illegal Dumping Action Plan to manage illegal dumping around charity stores and bins.
- The EPA has developed a program to reduce household kerbside dumping.
- Before 2019, 45% of Councils reported running joint campaigns with the EPA compared to 27% in 2014

### **APPROACH: education and awareness**

The EPA has used its evidence base to advise on the direction of programs and run targeted education campaigns to increase the reporting of illegal dumping, improve disposal behaviours and encourage re-use. We have:

- provided training for public land managers on prevention and enforcement techniques (through the Australasian Environmental Law Enforcement and Regulators Network and the annual RID conference)
- developed specific communication and education plans to educate people about donating responsibly to charities, to encourage reporting through RIDonline, and to raise awareness of the risks of free fill
- developed an illegal dumping toolkit (resource kit) of research, education and media materials plus case studies, to help stakeholders prevent illegal dumping
- trialled behaviour change interventions to reduce illegal dumping of household waste at multi-unit dwellings. The two interventions resulted in a 34% and 51% reduction in dumping
- reviewed the effectiveness of our 'RID' branding and increased its use in public areas and through the media. RID squads and programs, and programs funded by EPA grants, have installed more than 1,500 RID-branded signs in the last four years.

### **APPROACH: prevention, infrastructure and clean-up**

The EPA has supported stakeholders to adopt a range of measures to help prevent and clean-up illegal dumping.

- The EPA is working with charities and local councils to manage illegal dumping around charitable recyclers by funding prevention infrastructure, researching behaviour change approaches, running workshops, developing education materials and raising awareness about how to responsibly donate.
- The EPA continues to fund the Illegal Dumping Asbestos Clean Up Program (IDACUP) and has developed an online system to make it easier for public land managers to apply for funds.
- The NSW Government has funded the establishment of more than 90 community recycling centres, making it easier for residents to dispose of problem wastes. The EPA is also continuing to research options to make it cheaper and easier for householders to dispose of asbestos waste. These will be rolled out through the NSW Asbestos Waste Strategy 2019–21.
- The NSW Government has awarded over \$2.9 million in the last two years to support local government, public land managers, charities and Local Aboriginal Land Councils implementing 51 projects to clean up, combat and prevent illegal dumping.
- The EPA has delivered three rounds of the Combating Illegal Dumping Clean-up and Prevention Program, that supports public land managers to identify local illegal dumping sites and implement prevention and clean-up action.
- The EPA has supported the use of surveillance and prevention techniques to tackle illegal dumping, through training and grants.



## APPROACH: regulation and enforcement

The EPA has been focusing on more strategic regulation of large-scale illegal dumping and use of new regulatory tools. It is working with other regulators to ensure all enforcement action is integrated with education, infrastructure and prevention tools.

- To disrupt organised crime, fraud and illegal waste disposal in the waste sector, the EPA formed the Waste Crime Task Force (WCTF) in 2018.
- The EPA's first prosecution under tough new laws for repeat offenders resulted in a three-year jail sentence for five waste offences in May 2018, sending a strong message that illegal dumping will not be tolerated.
- The EPA is delivering a multi-phase program targeting illegal landfilling, including a contract and procurement toolkit and guide released in 2019, to strengthen upfront controls over contractors managing waste.
- The EPA is working with key stakeholders to use its evidence base to undertake targeted regulatory work (for example, using data from RIDonline to target peak dumping periods and focus programs on hotspot areas).
- The EPA has led targeted compliance campaigns focused on priority illegal dumping issues such as asbestos waste. These campaigns have been undertaken through methods like aerial surveillance and truck pullovers. They involve working in partnership with other agencies, such as WorkSafe NSW.
- In 2018 the EPA and other agencies ran a compliance campaign across NSW to focus on the transport and disposal of construction and demolition waste. Four hundred and sixty-eight (468) waste trucks were checked. This campaign involved the five RID squads and programs, Roads and Maritime Services, and the NSW Police Force.

## APPROACH: evaluation and monitoring

The EPA ensures its actions are based on data, and that stakeholders have information and data on illegal dumping to coordinate action and inform programs. In this way the best outcomes are achieved.

- The Illegal Dumping Strategy has a monitoring and evaluation framework, including key performance indicators, that at the end of the program will be used to report on successes, challenges and achievements.
- Monitoring and evaluation forms a large part of grant programs. RIDonline data is used to monitor progress of grant programs. The EPA shares successful and innovative projects and learnings from grant programs with other public land managers, to build capacity.

