

Prevention of illegal dumping on ULALC land

Project details:

Duration

April –November 2017

Cost

\$30,700 plus in-kind contributions

Approaches used

- Partnerships
- Education and awareness
- Prevention infrastructure

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Illegal dumping has been a problem on Ulladulla Local Aboriginal Land Council's land for over 20 years. In this project two hotspots were targeted, which resulted in the clearing and elimination of the issue.



Figure 1 Dumped car bodies in April 2017 at hotspot 1, corner of South St and Warden St, Ulladulla. Photo credit: Ulladulla Local Aboriginal Land Council



Figure 2 Dumped white goods in April 2017 at hotspot 2, Matron Porter Drive, Narrawallee. Photo credit: Ulladulla Local Aboriginal Land Council

What was the problem?

Ulladulla Local Aboriginal Land Council (ULALC) owns property situated close to residential areas, and close to the entry of the local waste depot. These two areas were known dumping hotspots for household waste, green waste, tyres and abandoned vehicles.

What did we do?

Raise awareness of illegal dumping

We spoke to 18 residents in close proximity to the project sites to inform them of the upcoming project activities. This was a good opportunity to build relationships with residents and gain their support to prevent further illegal dumping. Additionally, 100 letters were sent to community members to inform them of the project and how to report suspicious behaviour. Two editorials in the local newspaper and posts on social media were used to further spread this information.

Clean-up

Two sites were successfully cleaned up. A clean-up crew from ULALC collected, sorted and removed over two tonnes of waste, including 27 tyres. Contractors were hired to remove six abandoned vehicles.

Prevention measures

ULALC collaborated with Shoalhaven City Council to gain insight on prevention measures and surveillance techniques. To restrict vehicle access to hotspots, 3 heavy-duty lockable gates, 51.8m of cable fencing, concrete blocks and sandstone boulders were installed. Seven Report Illegal Dumping road and gate signs were installed to deter dumping and trespassing.

Three surveillance cameras were installed to monitor land holdings. Weekly patrols of the project sites were conducted to check for signs of forced entry, and to maintain a presence on the land.

What was the result?

Shortly after clean-up activities began, a false incident of illegal dumping was reported to ULALC. This occurred as a resident mistook the clean-up crew sorting waste, and believed they were dumping it. This demonstrated that ULALC's efforts to raise awareness of illegal dumping were effective, and people were paying attention. Feedback received via social media about the clean-up and installation of gates and fencing was largely supportive.

Since the installation of gates and fencing, no further dumping has occurred at the project hotspots. ULALC continue to monitor the surveillance footage of the project hotspots on a regular basis. Since project completion, a vehicle created a new entry point into the hotspot area, however, as the site is regularly monitored this activity was noticed. The entry point has now been blocked, to prevent further vehicles entering the property.

What did we learn?

Once clean-up activities are complete, it is important to install prevention measures in a timely manner and align the work so that further clean-up is not required at the project sites still accessible to potential dumpers.



Figure 3 Gate and sign installed at hotspot 1, located at Corner of South St and Warden St Ulladulla.



Figure 4 After clean-up at hotspot 2, located at Narrawallee

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