



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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MINISTER VISITS SOUTHERN ILLEGAL DUMPING PROGRAM

Environment Minister Robyn Parker visited Kiama today and was joined by Kiama MP Gareth Ward, Kiama Deputy Mayor Warren Steel and local representatives to promote the new Southern Councils Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) program.

Ms Parker visited a local dump-site to inspect the illegal dumping problem firsthand and meet with Southern RID co-ordinator James Vincent.

"I am pleased to be able to see the initiatives already underway by this newly established squad which includes their local television ad campaign warning of the penalties and harm of illegal dumping," Ms Parker said.

"It is targeted, on-the-ground initiatives such as this program that can make a real difference to the incidence of illegal dumping in local communities.

Kiama MP Gareth Ward explained the Southern Councils Group RID program is a partnership between the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and councils Wollongong, Wingecarribee, Shellharbour, Kiama, Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla and Bega.

"Illegal dumping is an environmental crime that imposes unnecessary costs on land owners and local councils. We are determined to crack down on it," Mr Ward said.

"Earlier this year I announced a new \$58 million state-wide *Draft Illegal Dumping Strategy*, which looks at developing an integrated approach to tackling the dumping problem by galvanising support across state and local governments, industry and the community," Ms Parker said.

"One of the initiatives of this Strategy was the set-up of two new RID squads including this one in the Illawarra that is now established, and one for the Hunter region later this year.

"RID programs are an important partnership between the EPA and local councils to deliver illegal dumping solutions in local communities by identifying and penalising illegal dumpers.

"The NSW Government is co-funding the new RID program with \$900,000 over the next three years and a management committee has already been established, based in Kiama.

Mr Ward said “The Southern Councils Group RID program will operate and identify illegal dumping incidents from Wingecarribee and Wollongong, down to the Bega Valley. This will be undertaken through a variety of means, including helicopter flyovers of rural areas and working closely with officers from the NSW EPA.”

Combating illegal dumping is a key priority for the NSW Government and is a goal under *NSW 2021*. The \$58 million draft Illegal Dumping Strategy is just one part of the NSW Government’s \$465.7 million *Waste Less, Recycle More Initiative*.

To report illegal dumping call the NSW EPA’s Environment Line on 131 555