



# **Robyn Parker MP**

## **Minister for the Environment**

## **Minister for Heritage**

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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Friday, 24 January 2014

#### **BLITZ ON NSW TYRE RETAILERS**

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today announced the results of a blitz on tyre retailers by the Environment Protection Authority to continue NSW Government efforts to ensure retailers act legally when disposing of waste tyres.

Ms Parker said during the last four weeks of 2013, the EPA visited 258 tyre retailers across Sydney, the Hunter and Illawarra to assess the retail sector's compliance in disposing of waste tyres lawfully, and to deter any illegal operators.

"We found that that 50 per cent of tyre retailers were unaware of their legal responsibility to ensure that waste tyres are taken to a lawful facility," Ms Parker said.

"Anyone involved in handling of waste tyres can be found guilty of an offence when waste tyres are transported to a place that cannot lawfully be used as a waste facility.

"Businesses that process and store waste tyres without the necessary operating approvals from local council or the EPA risk hefty fines and prosecution.

"From 1 October 2013, anybody caught illegally dumping in NSW is subject to tough new penalties that include jail time for repeat offenders and potential loss of vehicles used in illegal dumping activity. This includes up to two years in jail for repeat illegal dumpers who commit a waste offence within five years of a prior waste conviction."

The EPA's inspections found that a waste tyre transporter in Sydney had been informing tyre retailers that their waste tyres were being taken to two sites that are no longer in operation.

The EPA has issued a prevention notice to the operators of the first site and a clean-up notice to the owner of the second site. The waste tyres have since been removed from this site. Seven tyre retailer facilities will be investigated further to check if they are operating lawfully.

Ms Parker said the NSW Government will open consultation shortly on a regulation change to decrease from 5000 to 500 the amount of passenger tyres allowed to be stored for recycling, in order to prevent the illegal storage and disposal of waste tyres.

The NSW Government has committed \$58 million to a community focussed Illegal Dumping program.

For more information on your responsibilities to dispose of your tyres appropriately go to: <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/wastetyres.htm>

If you suspect someone is illegally dumping tyres or taking them to place that cannot lawfully accept waste tyres, contact the EPA's 24 hour Environment Line on 131 555.