



**Rob Stokes MP**  
Minister for the Environment  
Minister for Heritage  
Assistant Minister for Planning

**John Barilaro MP**  
Member for Monaro

**Yvette Berry MLA**  
Member for Ginninderra

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## **NSW AND ACT JOIN TO TACKLE CROSS BORDER ILLEGAL DUMPING**

An aerial surveillance operation will today take place across the NSW and ACT border region to identify significant hot spots for illegal dumping of waste as part of a larger program to stop illegal dumping in the region.

NSW Environment Minister Rob Stokes, Member for Monaro John Barilaro and ACT Member for Ginninderra, Yvette Berry said the NSW and ACT Governments have joined forces to stop illegal waste dumping.

“Illegal dumping is a crime that isn’t restricted by borders. By joining resources across NSW and the ACT we are able to improve our ability to stop rogue operators,” Mr Stokes said.

“We’ve committed \$450,000 for this initiative as part of a \$58 million commitment over the next five years to tackle illegal dumping activities.

“Those operators who are doing the wrong thing in NSW and are found to be dumping waste illegally could face fines of up to \$5 million and two years gaol.”

Mr Barilaro said the illegal dumping of waste is a crime and causes harm to the community and our environment.

“Today’s helicopter surveillance operation will help to identify illegal dumping spots that may be difficult to locate or access on ground,” Mr Barilaro said.

“A helicopter will fly over the NSW/ACT border region targeting areas where the highest rates of illegal dumping are known or suspected to occur.

“This operation is taking place today as part of the ACT-NSW Cross Border Illegal Dumping Program involving identifying, investigating and prosecuting illegal dumping offences across both NSW and ACT jurisdictions.”

Ms Yvette Berry said the program has been developed in partnership between the ACT and NSW governments and the local councils of Yass Valley, Queanbeyan, Palerang and Cooma-Monaro and will run for the next three years.

“Construction, asbestos, household and garden waste, mainly generated in the populated areas of Queanbeyan and Canberra is being dumped on public land and isolated rural areas in the region,” Ms Berry said.

“This is an ongoing problem which is not just unsightly, but poses risks to the environment and human health. Clean-up of these sites is also financial burden on ratepayers. It requires a coordinated and persistent effort to put a stop to illegal dumping which is exactly what this program is designed to do.

“We are putting illegal dumpers on notice, we are tracking their activities and it is only a matter of time before they are caught.

“Illegal dumping and contamination of our land and waterways will not be tolerated; NSW operators who are found to be dumping waste illegally could face fines of up to \$5 million, and orders to clean the sites up,” Ms Berry said.

If people see what they suspect is illegal dumping they should report it to the EPA Environment Line on 131555 in NSW or to Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 in the ACT. The more information people can give, such as vehicle registration numbers, locations and times, the easier it is to follow up the report.