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MEDIA RELEASE

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GRANTS TO EIGHT ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCILS TO TACKLE ILLEGAL DUMPING

Environment Minister Mark Speakman has announced that eight NSW Local Aboriginal Land Councils have been awarded a share of \$253,000 to assist them to tackle illegal dumping on their land.

The funding, awarded through the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Aboriginal Lands Clean-Up and Prevention (ALCUP) program, is to assist with the clean-up of illegally dumped waste and deter further dumping on privately owned Aboriginal land.

Mr Speakman said that the ALCUP program had been successful in cleaning up Aboriginal land.

“Collectively, more than 809 tonnes of waste has been removed and almost 300 tonnes has been safely disposed of at landfills, since 2011,” Mr Speakman said.

“A further 509 tonnes of materials have been recycled since 2011.”

ALCUP funding enables Local Aboriginal Land Councils not only to clean-up, but also to put in place prevention strategies to deter further dumping.

Key prevention strategies include the installation of warning signs, lockable gates, surveillance devices and access barriers at well-known dumping hotspots.

Community engagement strategies that put forward the value of clean and restored lands to the communities that use them are also included within the ALCUP program.

Mr Speakman said that the ALCUP program was part of the government’s commitment to combating illegal dumping across the state.

“The ALCUP program has been allocated \$600,000 to 2017 from the EPA *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative to provide Aboriginal land councils the practical means to clear illegally dumped waste and deter further dumping,” he said.

The following applicants received ALCUP funding:

Bateman’s Bay LALC	\$41,821
Birraban LALC	\$49,993
Darkinjung LALC	\$50,000
La Perouse LALC	\$10,668

Merrimans LALC	\$20,000
Nowra LALC	\$19,871
Walgett LALC	\$50,000
Wellington LALC	\$11,000

For information about the grant program visit:

<http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/wastegrants/alcup.htm>

Waste Less, Recycle More is an EPA lead initiative launched in February 2013 designed to address the two million tonnes of waste sent to landfill in 2012-13. The Government has committed \$465.7 million to 2017 to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill by increasing recycling, reducing illegal dumping and litter and tackle problem wastes.