



Mark Speakman
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Heritage
Assistant Minister for Planning

MEDIA RELEASE

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\$1.3 MILLION IN GRANTS TO REDUCE LITTER

Environment Minister Mark Speakman today announced a new statewide litter reduction grants program to help the NSW Government reach its target of reducing the volume of litter by 40 per cent by 2020.

Under the \$1.3 million Litter Regional Implementation Program, grants are open to 15 regional waste groups, which consist of almost all of NSW's councils.

The waste groups are broken into regional organisation of councils groups and voluntary regional groups – each group is eligible to apply for the grants.

Mr Speakman said councils could achieve a greater bang for their buck by working in regional groups.

“Littering harms ecosystems and the natural environment, and is linked to anti-social behaviours,” he said.

“The NSW community consistently identifies littering as an area of environmental concern.”

The program aims to encourage councils within groups to work together strategically to tackle litter problems unique to their communities.

The funding is offered in two stages. The first is a one-off \$20,000 payment to develop a litter implementation plan. The second stage is a competitive grant process to fund litter projects outlined in the implementation plan.

“I invite all 15 waste groups to submit an implementation plan, which will outline how each waste group will tackle their litter problems in their respective regions,” he said.

The grants program is part of the government's flagship \$465.7 million *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative.

Waste groups funded under the program must submit their implementation plans by April 2016. Once their plans are approved, they can then apply for a share of the funding for projects that commence by 1 July 2016 and are completed by May 2017.

For more information, visit: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/wastegrants/council-litter.htm.