



Gabrielle Upton
Minister for the Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LITTERED DRINK CONTAINER

Forty branded bottles fitted with GPS trackers will be released into NSW waterways to show people how far litter can travel once it reaches the state's waterways, Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton said today.

The bottles will be dropped in waterways in Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle and Wagga Wagga as part of the NSW Government's anti-littering campaign, *Hey Tosser!* The bottles will be tracked daily and updates will be shared on social media to raise awareness about the distance litter travels.

"Collecting this information will help the NSW Government educate people about how damaging but preventable littering is to our environment," Ms Upton said.

"Many of the bottles floating in our waterways won't be there after December when the NSW Government's container deposit scheme is introduced but there is still much more litter being swept into waterways that can be prevented."

The 40 bottles and GPS trackers released in waterways will be collected at the end of the project.

As part of the NSW Government's Autumn *Hey tosser!* blitz people are also encouraged to register to 'Report to EPA' when they see someone littering from a vehicle. Since February 2015 more than 20,000 people have registered across the state and the NSW Environment Protection Authority has issued more than 17,200 fines.

The EPA can issue fines of \$250 for an individual and \$500 for a corporation for littering from a vehicle, based on public reports.

"Around 25,000 tonnes of litter is tossed in NSW each year, costing the state more than \$180 million to manage," Ms Upton said.

The NSW Government is almost halfway to meeting the Premier's priority of reducing litter volume by 40 per cent by 2020.

To find out more about the *Hey Tosser!* campaign and what information is required from somebody who wants to report littering from a vehicle, visit www.epa.nsw.gov.au/heytosser.