



Mark Speakman
Minister for the Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 25 May 2016

IT'S TIME TO BIN CHARITY DUMPING

Illegal dumping of unusable goods is costing charities millions of dollars and thousands of volunteer hours a year, Environment Minister Mark Speakman said today while launching a new NSW Government grant scheme to deter dumpers.

The Environment Protection Authority's *Reducing Dumping on Charitable Recyclers* project offers charities grants of up to \$7000 each to install surveillance equipment, lighting, fencing and gates to get charity donors to do the right thing.

"The government has been working with charities to help them manage the cost of disposing the unusable goods that are dumped in Australia each year," Mr Speakman said.

"With charities receiving an estimated two billion items or 300,000 tonnes of goods each year, disposing of the 40 per cent which are unusable equates to 120,000 tonnes of waste. The cost alone of getting rid of this rubbish is up to \$7 million a year."

Pat Daley from the EPA Charity Recyclers Reference Group said charities struggled to keep up with the volume of unusable goods dumped on doorsteps of charity shops or around donation bins.

"Charities rely on donations to raise funds for their important work, but the cost of sorting and disposing unusable goods cuts deeply into fundraising efforts," Mr Daley said.

Susan Goldie, Executive Officer St Vincent De Paul Society Parramatta Central Council, said Vinnies was very grateful to the generous Australian public who donated good quality items to be sold in their shops.

"Almost 50 per cent of funding for Vinnies works in local communities is generated by the sale of donations through our shops. Unfortunately though, many of our volunteers are faced with sorting through wet and damaged goods after they have been left outside bins or shop fronts overnight, over weekends and during holidays," Mrs Goldie said.

The *Reducing Illegal Dumping on Charitable Recyclers* grant program is part of the Government's \$58 million commitment to addressing illegal dumping from its *Waste Less, Recycle* initiative.

Waste Less, Recycle More is a \$465.7 million investment designed to transform waste management and recycling in NSW. More information on the EPA grants scheme is available online at www.epa.nsw.gov.au/wastegrants/charitable-recyclers.htm