



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES \$58M STRATEGY TO COMBAT ILLEGAL DUMPING

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today unveiled a new \$58 million state-wide initiative to combat illegal dumping, including establishing two new Regional Illegal Dumping Squads to crack down on environmental criminals.

Ms Parker said one strategy to target illegal dumpers involves the use of static and helicopter surveillance in the State's south as well as covert operations to target black-spot and fly-by-night dumping.

The Draft Strategy to Combat Illegal Dumping will be open for public comment until 30 April 2013.

"Illegal dumping is an environmental crime that has the potential to cause harm to the environment and human health and impose unnecessary clean-up costs on land owners and local councils," Ms Parker said.

"The NSW community is estimated to spend millions of dollars a year removing and properly disposing of illegally dumped materials and landfilling.

"Combating the illegal dumping of waste is a key priority for the NSW Government and is a goal in *NSW 2021*.

The draft Strategy to Combat Illegal Dumping provides an integrated approach to tackling the problem by galvanising support across state and local governments, industry and the community.

"It sets out an action plan to reduce the incidence of illegal dumping with initiatives to prevent dumping before it occurs through increased community engagement and improved waste facilities and campaigns to target dumpers once they have offended with strategic enforcement," Ms Parker said.

"This includes the set-up of two new RID (Regional Illegal Dumping) Squads with the Southern Councils Group and the Hunter this year.

"The Hunter squad is still in the early stages but the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has now finalised set-up of the Southern Councils Group, partnering with seven South Coast and Southern Highlands councils to target illegal dumping with a regional approach.

"The three-year Illawarra initiative includes \$900,000 of State Government funding to crack down on illegal dumpers with the use of static and helicopter surveillance as well as covert operations to target black-spot and fly-by-night dumping.

"Work has commenced between the EPA and the Southern Group of Councils to establish the RID Squad program.

“Other key initiatives of the Illegal Dumping Strategy include establishing an expert working group with local councils and industry to provide advice on locally-focussed illegal dumping prevention programs and the piloting of a trial program that provides a levy exemption for home renovators to dispose of small amounts of asbestos.”

Overall the Strategy includes 23 actions in six key program areas including:

- **Partnerships:** Promoting the setup of local waste drop-off centres, facilitating grant schemes for local councils and public land managers, and establishing an expert working group with councils and industry.
- **Capacity Building:** Providing an online illegal dumping resource and a dedicated EPA illegal dumping unit
- **Strategic Enforcement:** Undertaking regular EPA and joint compliance campaigns, establishing new RID programs, working with Aboriginal communities to identify and target dumping hotspots
- **Education:** Targeted campaigns for the community and industry
- **Community Engagement:** Increase community engagement and facilitate community-based clean up events
- **Data Collection and Analysis:** Information sharing across agencies

“Only by working together from the grassroots community level right through to State Government can we successfully address the problem of illegal dumping,” Ms Parker said.

“To that end, the EPA will be holding a number of consultative workshops on the draft Strategy in April 2013. *Information at the end of media release*

“I encourage anyone who has an interest in combating the issue of illegal dumping in their local area to come along to these workshops and share their input.”

The draft Strategy to Combat Illegal Dumping is available at:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/waste/1388didstrat.htm. Comments can be made online or at <http://www.nsw.gov.au/haveyoursay> until 30 April 2013.

Regional consultative workshops: 27 March Queanbeyan, 3 April Dubbo, 5 April Parramatta, 8 April Wyong, 10 April Coffs Harbour, 12 April Kiama.

To register your interest in attending one of the workshops email illegaldumping.strategy@epa.nsw.gov.au

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