



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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COMBATING ILLEGAL DUMPING IN WESTERN SYDNEY

Environment Minister Robyn Parker visited Erskine Park today to meet with members of the Western Sydney Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) squad following the recent announcement of a new \$58 million state-wide illegal dumping strategy.

Ms Parker was joined by Smithfield MP Andrew Rohan, Mulgoa MP Tanya Davies and Penrith Mayor Mark Davies and said that the NSW Government was committed to tackling illegal dumping.

“Illegal dumping is an environmental crime that has the potential to harm both the environment and human health,” Ms Parker said.

“It also imposes unnecessary costs on land owners and local councils, with clean-up costs estimated at more than \$10 million dollars a year.

“In areas like western Sydney where the urban fringe backs onto bush, illegal dumping can be a real challenge for the local councils and this is where the RID squad play an essential role.

“RID squads are jointly funded by the NSW Environment Protection Authority and local councils and their role in helping to fight this illegal activity is vital,” Ms Parker said.

Mr Rohan said there are strong concerns about illegal dumping and it is important to help protect the community.

“Last financial year the RID squad investigated over 3,500 cases of illegal dumping and a recent aerial surveillance operation over parts of Western Sydney had identified 30 sites requiring further investigation,” Mr Rohan said.

Ms Davies said that in 2012/13, 2,600 cases have been investigated and over \$200,000 worth of penalty notices issued.

“The Western Sydney RID squad is a partnership between the EPA and local government and operates across council boundaries to identify illegal dumping incidents through a variety of means, including helicopter flyovers,” Ms Davies said.

Penrith Mayor, Councillor Mark Davies said he was proud to manage the RID Squad on behalf of the seven member councils.

“I think it is important to understand that illegal dumping is not something that is specific to Western Sydney, but what these RID squad figures show is that local councils in Western Sydney are active in trying to tackle this problem.

“And our RID Squad really are doing a fantastic job of significantly cutting the amount of waste dumped illegally across Western Sydney and catching dumpers.

To report illegal dumping in Western Sydney call the Western Sydney RID squad on 4732 7446 or call the EPA’s Environment Line on 131 555.

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