



Rob Stokes MP
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MEDIA RELEASE

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PEOPLE POWER TO CRACK DOWN ON LITTERBUGS

Environment Minister Rob Stokes today announced that, for the first time in NSW, fines for littering from vehicles can be issued based on reports from the public.

Mr Stokes said reports from the public of littering from cars, trailers and trucks can result in a fine under the new system.

“Thousands of community members already report littering from vehicles to the EPA each year resulting in warning letters, so we know there is tremendous support in the community for reporting and a low tolerance for littering,” Mr Stokes said.

“We want people to know that, if they litter from a vehicle, they run the risk of being seen, being reported and facing a hefty penalty.

“NSW Government research found littering from vehicles is a major problem. Cigarette butts make up more than 90 per cent of litter reported from vehicles. This is not just a blight on our environment, it’s also a serious fire risk.

“This research also shows people are less likely to litter if someone’s watching. Litterbugs will think twice if anyone in the street can report them for a fine.”

Mr Stokes said the new reporting system will be up and running from February 1, and fines will be issued for offences from March 1.

Reports must be made using either the new portal on the EPA website or the upgraded *Report to EPA* mobile app downloadable at <http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/litter/from-vehicle.htm> from February 1.

All reports will undergo a verification process before a fine is issued, and reporters may need to provide evidence in court. Motorists are advised not to use mobile phones illegally, or act dangerously to catch someone in the act.

Reports need to be made within 14 days of the incident and must include a range of information including car registration and description, date, time, location and the type of littered item where possible.

Fines for littering from a vehicle range from \$250 for an individual, \$500 for a corporation, to \$900 for aggravated littering such as lit cigarette butts during extreme conditions.

For more information visit the EPA website:

www.epa.nsw.gov.au/litter/index.htm