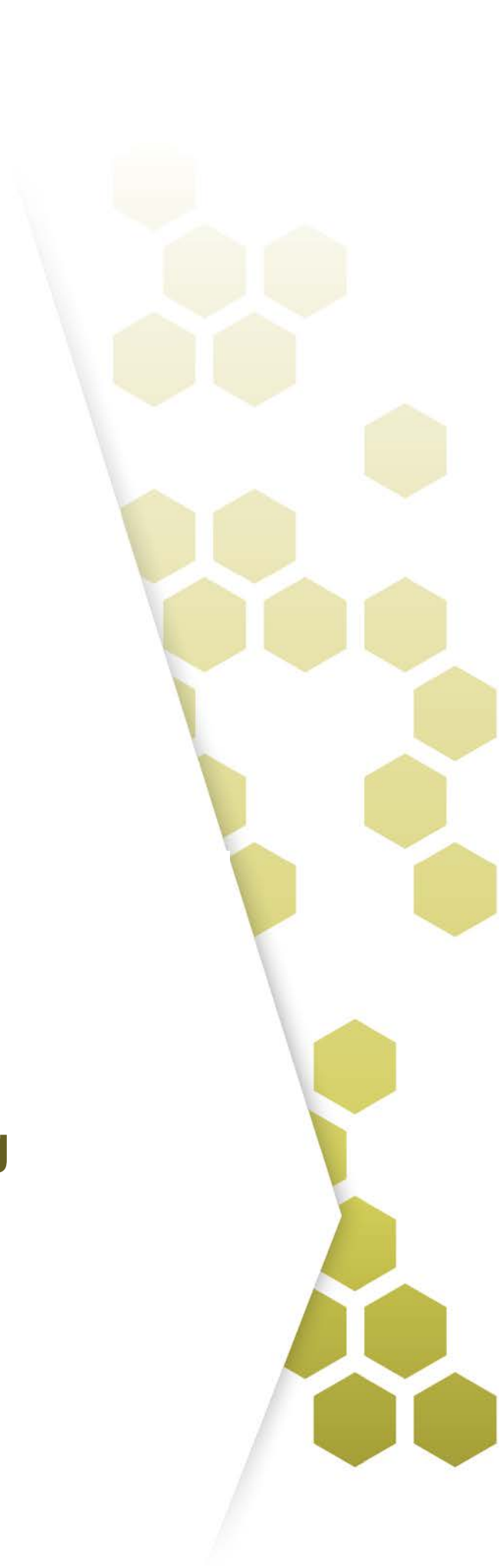




NSW Illegal Dumping Strategy 2014–16

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NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA)
59–61 Goulburn Street, Sydney
PO Box A290
Sydney South NSW 1232

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Minister's message

I am delighted to announce the *NSW Illegal Dumping Strategy 2014–16* (the Strategy), an initiative which reflects the NSW Government's strong stance against illegal dumping.

Illegal dumping affects communities' pride in their local environment and degrades our parks and reserves. It pollutes land and water. Dumping also results in unfair costs to communities, charities, local councils, Aboriginal land councils and land managers, diverting resources from more deserving projects.

The NSW Government's commitment to reducing illegal dumping is clear. Goal 22 of *NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one* is to reduce the incidence of large scale illegal dumping detected in Sydney, the Illawarra, Hunter and Central Coast by 30 per cent by 2016. This commitment has been bolstered by significant funding and regulatory reform. The *Waste Less Recycle More* initiative includes \$58 million over 5 years to tackle illegal dumping across the state. This funding will support the delivery of the Strategy, which sets out innovative and targeted solutions to illegal dumping.

In October 2013, the NSW Government introduced tough new laws to help combat illegal dumping, including a custodial sentence of up to two years for repeat illegal dumpers. In May 2014, the NSW Government announced that the amount payable under penalty notices issued by the EPA for illegal dumping will increase to \$15,000 – the toughest in Australia. These measures will act as strong deterrents to illegal dumping, which, together with the actions outlined in the Strategy, will empower land owners, land managers and local communities to effectively combat illegal dumping.

The Strategy is an integrated approach to the problem, uniting action on education, enforcement and infrastructure to discourage people from dumping, and to take strong action against those who persist in doing the wrong thing.

During 2013, the EPA conducted consultation forums across NSW to seek feedback on the draft strategy. More than 225 people representing 150 stakeholder groups, including local councils and public land managers, state government agencies, Aboriginal land councils, industry, environmental consultants, and charitable organisations, attended. Written submissions were also received.

As a result of the feedback received, the Strategy reflects the shared priorities of the people working hard to combat illegal dumping throughout NSW. I commend the people and organisations who have worked together to develop it. I am confident that our joint efforts to deliver the 21 actions set out in the Strategy will successfully tackle illegal dumping across NSW.

Rob Stokes MP

Minister for the Environment

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1 Introduction

1.1 An integrated approach

Combating illegal dumping is a key priority for the NSW Government and local communities.

NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one sets a target to reduce the incidence of large-scale (greater than 200 cubic metres) illegal dumping in Sydney, the Illawarra, Hunter and Central Coast by 30 per cent by 2016.

Illegal dumping is an environmental crime and can cause serious environmental pollution, pose a risk to human health, and impact local amenities and community pride. Cleaning up illegally dumped material is also a significant cost for local communities, councils and public land managers.

For the first time, NSW has a state-wide strategy, the *NSW Illegal Dumping Strategy 2014–16* (the Strategy), designed to deliver an integrated approach to combat illegal dumping. The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is charged with leading the work to deliver the Strategy, coordinating efforts of the many stakeholders working to combat illegal dumping, and managing the funding for that work.

The Strategy uses a multifaceted approach to combat illegal dumping. As part of the *Waste Less, Recycle More* initiative, the NSW Government has allocated \$58 million over five years to support initiatives across NSW, including a pilot program to trial innovative approaches to assist home renovators to dispose of small, non-commercial quantities of asbestos. The fund will also be used to enhance the EPA's ability to detect and prosecute illegal waste operators.

1.2 Our vision

The NSW Government's vision is to protect local environments from pollution by reducing the incidence of illegal dumping in our community.

To achieve this vision the Government aims to:

- reduce the incidence of illegal dumping
- reduce the social, environmental, health and financial impact of illegal dumping.

Based on feedback received from the consultation for the Strategy and the experience of the EPA, local councils and public land managers, and, six focus areas have been identified:

1. Partnerships – build local community partnerships
2. Building an evidence base
3. Strategic enforcement – ramp-up waste compliance and enforcement
4. Capacity building – help build expertise
5. Education – spread the word
6. Community engagement – motivate local communities.

The EPA will work closely with partners to deliver projects and results in these areas. [Table 1](#) sets out the projects that will be run under each of these focus areas.

1.3 Partnerships

Partnerships are essential in delivering this strategy and local government, waste management groups, industry and community all have a significant role to play. The EPA will take the lead in fostering and maintaining these partnerships.

The EPA is responsible for the statutory framework for illegal dumping prevention in NSW. The Strategy has been developed by the EPA on behalf of the NSW Government.

The EPA also leads on best practice in litter prevention programs and drives integrated waste and resource recovery in NSW.

1.4 Consultation

The EPA developed the Strategy in consultation with local councils and public land managers, state government agencies, Aboriginal land councils, industry, environmental consultants, and charitable organisations.

The EPA's *Draft Strategy to Combat Illegal Dumping* was on public exhibition from February 2013 until 30 April 2013.

In 2013 the EPA hosted eight forums in Queanbeyan, Dubbo, Kiama, Wyong, Coffs Harbour, Griffith and Tamworth. These illegal dumping forums were attended by more than 225 participants representing 150 stakeholder groups, including local councils and public land managers, state government agencies, Aboriginal land councils, industry, environmental consultants, and charitable organisations. Ten written submissions were also provided.

The Strategy is the culmination of strong participation and support by stakeholders.

1.5 Priorities and actions

In NSW, the EPA is responsible for leading and facilitating state-wide action against illegal dumping. It also guides and supports other organisations take action. The overall aim of the Strategy is to reduce the incidence of large-scale illegal dumping in Sydney, the Illawarra, Hunter and Central Coast by 30 per cent by 2016.

The Strategy directs the actions of the EPA in relation to illegal dumping, and lets industry, local councils, public land managers, Aboriginal communities, charitable organisations, Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) squads, state government agencies, volunteer groups and the community know what they can expect from the EPA.

The actions in the Strategy aim to address priority wastes and offer scope for actions to be delivered that target not just state-wide priorities, but also regional and local priorities identified by stakeholders.

Local council, industry and community stakeholders need to remain engaged and focussed on the delivery of these actions.

Analysis of the problems and the successful solutions implemented in NSW and elsewhere helped guide development of priority actions for the next two years.

1.6 Priority waste types

Advice from local council, public managers and RID Squads has identified the following priority waste types that when illegally dumped pose a risk to the environment and human health:

- asbestos waste
- construction and demolition waste
- household waste
- end-of-life tyres
- garden waste.

The Strategy aims to reduce the incidence of illegal dumping of one or more of these priority wastes. The EPA recognises that not all of these wastes will be a priority for other agencies dealing with illegal dumping.

Priority wastes may be influenced by agency roles and responsibilities, and geographic location. For example, household waste (e.g. mattresses and whitegoods) might be a priority for metropolitan and urban local councils while Aboriginal communities and state government agencies managing large and remote land parcels may identify asbestos waste, construction and demolition waste, green waste and end-of-life tyres as priority wastes.

1.7 What is illegal dumping?

Illegal dumping is the unlawful disposal of any waste that is larger than litter to land or waters. Illegal dumping is where waste materials are dumped, tipped or otherwise deposited on private or public land where the required planning approval or environment protection licence has not been granted.

Illegal dumping may vary from small bags of rubbish or household waste in an urban environment to larger scale dumping of materials such as construction and demolition waste in more isolated areas. This waste may also include dangerous materials like asbestos.

Illegal landfilling is a form of illegal dumping where waste is used as a 'fill' with the consent of the owner or occupier of the land without the necessary planning or licensing approvals. Construction and demolition waste is used as illegal fill for reclamation works, roads, noise mounds, and landscaping. Illegal fill material may be contaminated with hazardous chemicals or asbestos.

1.8 Nature and extent of illegal dumping in NSW

It is a challenge to build accurate information on the nature and extent of illegal dumping because the intent behind this dumping is to keep it out of sight, undetected and anonymous.

As a result, there is limited information about illegal dumping in NSW. Local government and other land managers collect information relating to the clean-up of illegally dumped waste, but the data is insufficient to gain a realistic assessment.

The Strategy contains actions to build accurate and comprehensive data that will direct and prioritise action against illegal dumping.

1.9 Where is waste being dumped?

In NSW there are a number of places where waste is typically dumped.

Urban areas

Nature-strips and on roadsides, bushland, laneways, drains, parks, sporting grounds, private property, vacant land, train stations, and electricity substations.

Regional areas

Remote areas such as national parks and state forests, recreational areas, including camping grounds, and land that buffers water catchment areas and electricity substations. Other areas include alongside access roads to remote areas, vacant land within close proximity, existing residential estates, and rail corridors.

A 2004 survey of 71 local councils, conducted by the Institute for Sustainable Futures at the University of Technology, Sydney, found that the annual number of incidents of illegal dumping was significantly higher in urban council areas than in rural council areas. Urban councils reported between 120 and 1,700 incidents of illegal dumping, excluding illegal landfilling, annually. Rural councils reported 1 to 450 incidents of illegal dumping annually, with most reporting fewer than 10 incidents. Similarly, urban councils reported between 0 and 300 incidents of illegal landfilling annually, while rural councils reported between 0 and 26 incidents annually.

1.10 What waste is illegally dumped?

All kinds of waste are illegally dumped. The most common waste that is illegally dumped is household waste. Illegally dumped bulky household wastes include household whitegoods (such as fridges and washing machines), furniture and mattresses. Other wastes include garden waste, car bodies, tyres, building and demolition waste, animal carcasses and vehicle parts.

Certain waste types are more of a problem than others. The 2004 survey indicates that, in general, household waste, garden waste, and construction and demolition waste, including asbestos waste, are the major problems for urban and rural local councils (Figure 1).

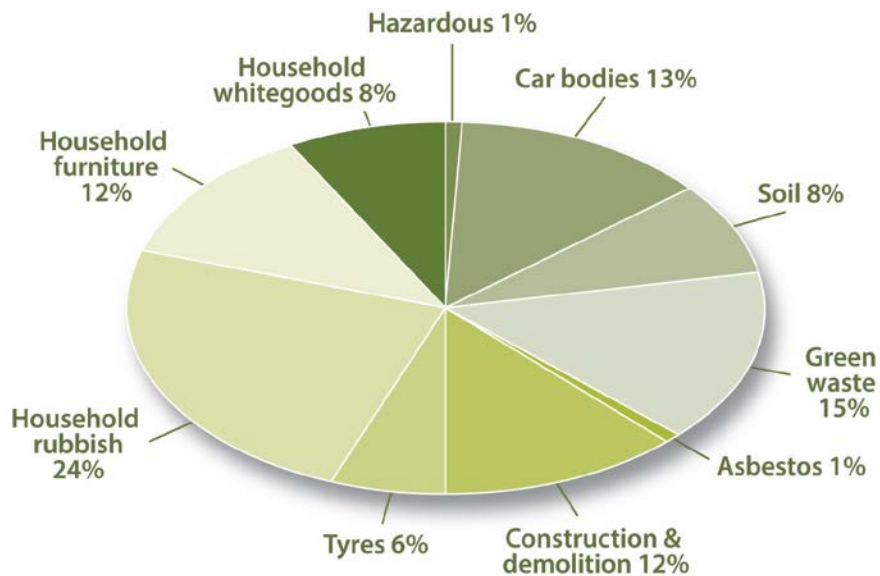


Figure 1: Types of waste materials illegally dumped, as reported by urban and rural local councils

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the findings of the 2004 survey into commonly dumped waste types, reported by local councils, are still valid. This evidence will be tested and further developed under Action No. 6 of the Strategy.

Household waste, construction and demolition waste and green waste are significant components of illegally dumped waste. While asbestos waste only accounts for a very small proportion of all illegally dumped waste, it can present a serious risk to human health and to the environment.

The Western Sydney RID Squad has identified six distinct types of illegal dumping in their region. They are:

- waste illegally dumped within the vicinity of multi-unit developments (MUDs)
- waste illegally dumped within the vicinity of single unit dwellings (e.g. houses)
- commercial and municipal waste illegally dumped (up to 2 cubic metres)
- demolition waste and contaminated fill transported to unlawful waste facilities by unscrupulous individuals or companies using organised networks (greater than 2 cubic metres)
- green waste and contaminated fill illegally dumped by commercial operators (e.g. in bushland or open spaces)
- landowners accepting waste on private properties with and without knowledge of the potential risks and legal liabilities.

1.11 What motivates illegal dumping?

Understanding the reasons why industries and individuals illegally dump waste will drive the development of effective strategies to combat illegal dumping.

Illegal dumping is carried out by all types of people in all parts of the community, from householders to businesses and other organisations. Depending on the type of waste illegally dumped, there are four recurring reasons that motivate illegal dumpers. These are:

- convenience
- using organised networks, particularly with regard to waste generated by businesses
- an unwillingness to pay
- an uncaring attitude.

Addressing these motivations will enable strategies to be developed that deal with the root causes, rather than the results, of illegal dumping.

2 Cost of illegal dumping

2.1 Environmental and social impacts of illegal dumping

Illegal dumping may:

- lead to degradation of the environment, including eroding land and degrading plant and animal habitats
- degrade public land and lower its value
- lower the value of surrounding properties
- impact the visual amenity of land
- attract further illegal dumping.

Illegal dumping on public land may also impact others in the community. For example, illegal dumping can:

- destroy local bushland, reduce biodiversity value and hinder revegetation
- contaminate local waterways
- impact the health of the people of NSW
- result in land being less desirable to visitors or persons pursuing recreation
- pose a fire risk by arson, which can lead to damaged property and bushland
- result in loss of valuable resources as many dumped items can be recycled such as garden waste, beverage containers, fridges, computers, tyres and car bodies
- block access on public land, which is a particular concern in relation to emergency vehicle access
- prevent and hinder maintenance works of roads, fire trails, bushfire protection zones and other property
- increase hazards and risk to fire fighters and property maintenance staff by exposing them to potentially hazardous wastes or asbestos, or preventing access to roads.

2.2 Financial costs

Illegal waste dumping costs individuals, communities and the government. The cost of cleaning up dumped waste can sometimes be devastating for landowners or occupiers.

Other individuals in a community can also suffer financial losses from illegal dumping. For example, landfill operators, resource recovery facilities and recycling facilities undergo loss of income for every tonne of waste that is illegally dumped. Waste transportation companies also lose out when competitors gain an unfair advantage by not paying landfill fees.

Local governments' expenditure on illegal dumping and landfilling is concentrated on clean-up and enforcement activities. Generally, clean-up costs comprised 51 per cent of local councils' total expenditure, while enforcement took up 39 per cent. In comparison, education comprised 6 per cent of total expenditure.

3 Community action

3.1 Reporting illegal dumping

The community is strongly encouraged to report incidences of illegal dumping to the EPA's Environment Line on 131 555. More information about how to report illegal dumping, and who to report specific types of dumping to, is available at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/pollution/wastelitter.htm

To help the community accurately report illegal dumping, an illegal dumping reporting form is available at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/resources/waste/IllegalDumpRptForm.pdf

Over the next 12 months, the EPA will lead the development of a new data collection system to track the action taken to investigate and clean up dumping.

Improved data collection is critical to understand the nature, extent and cause of the illegal dumping problem in order to implement effectively strategies to reduce illegal dumping.

The EPA's guideline for collecting illegal dumping data is available at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/warr/IllegalDumpingMethodology.htm

4 Illegal dumping prevention mechanisms

Five illegal dumping prevention mechanisms have been identified to address most behaviours and contexts associated with illegal dumping. These will be implemented through the tactics to combat illegal dumping and the action plan in the Strategy.

Illegal dumping prevention methods often need to be enforced through local or regional strategies, as what works in one area will not necessarily work in another.

To identify and develop effective prevention strategies, it is important to:

- understand why people illegally dump waste
- identify the context in which waste is illegally dumped, that is, who, what, where, why and how
- identify ways in which the context provides opportunities for illegal dumping of waste.

The EPA, local councils, public land managers and the community must work in partnership to develop and implement illegal dumping strategies specifically tailored to address local situations.

The five prevention mechanisms include:

1. Making dumping harder – in most cases illegal dumping takes very little effort. It can take more effort to do the right thing than to dump waste illegally. Local councils and land managers can make access to dumping hot spots difficult by using infrastructure such as lighting, barriers or landscaping.
2. Increasing the risk of getting caught – the decision to commit a crime is influenced by the perceived risk of getting caught and the perceived benefits of the action. A perceived increase in the likelihood of getting caught will deter some offenders from illegal dumping.
3. Reducing the rewards by denying the financial benefits – a major motive for illegal dumping is to avoid the cost of legitimate disposal. For businesses that generate large amounts of waste, such as builders, the financial savings from illegal dumping can be substantial. Financial incentives to dump waste legally include getting the price structures right, issuing fines and requiring offenders to clean up dump sites.
4. Reducing provocations by making legal disposal easier – householders are more likely to be motivated to dump if they perceive that the waste collection service is not efficient or convenient. Individuals may also feel provoked to illegally dump in areas that are not aesthetically pleasing (for example, where other dumping is present), and they may feel their dumped waste won't make a difference. Local councils can curtail illegal dumping in their local government areas by adopting best practice waste collection.
5. Removing excuses by educating and informing the community – those who dump may find it easy to rationalise and find excuses for their behaviour. These excuses can be removed through targeted education, advertising waste collection and disposal services, keeping areas free of waste and displaying signs at known illegal dumping hot spots. Information is important to make householders and business aware of their responsibilities when it comes to proper waste disposal.

The dynamic nature of illegal dumping means strategies that combat illegal dumping must be constantly reviewed and refined. The most effective responses to the problem can change over time.

More information about the prevention mechanisms are available at:

www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/OnlineIllegalDumpRes/IllegalDumpLandManCounc.htm

5 Who takes action against illegal dumping?

The *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) and the *Protection of the Environment Operations (Waste) Regulation 2005* (Waste Regulation) provide the regulatory framework for managing waste, deterring people from illegal dumping, and investigating and prosecuting illegal dumping offences.

The EPA and local councils have the regulatory authority to enforce the provisions of the POEO Act and Waste Regulation, which contain strong penalties for polluting the environment and illegally dumping waste, including:

- on-the-spot fines of up to \$1,500 for individuals and \$5,000 for corporations
- court-imposed penalties of up to \$250,000 for individuals and \$1 million for corporations in relation to unlawful waste facility offences, and
- court-imposed penalties of up to \$1 million for individuals and/or seven years imprisonment, and \$5 million for corporations in relation to illegal waste disposal that causes serious environmental harm.

In addition, the NSW courts can impose up to two years imprisonment for those convicted of repeat illegal dumping offences within five years of each proven offence.

Under the POEO Act, certain regulatory responsibilities are carried out by the EPA and local councils as the Appropriate Regulatory Authority. The Appropriate Regulatory Authority is the body responsible for regulating particular activities. An Appropriate Regulatory Authority can issue environment protection notices such as clean-up notices and prevention notices, ask for information and records, issue on-the-spot fines and initiate court prosecutions.

6 Partnership to deliver change

The effective delivery of the priorities and actions of the Strategy requires active engagement and collaboration between stakeholders.

6.1 Community

The community is made up of a variety of stakeholders including individuals, groups, businesses, residents, visitors and community, volunteer and non-profit organisations.

We have a mutual responsibility to contribute to prevent illegal dumping so we can live, work and operate in an environment that is safe and clean.

The community seeks direction on illegal dumping from local and state government and expects them to provide a framework conducive to prevent, detect and prosecute illegal dumping incidents.

While members of the local community are not empowered to take regulatory action against illegal dumpers, their desire to look after their own neighbourhoods and local natural environment is instrumental in supporting the work of the EPA and other organisations.

The EPA also runs information sessions for local communities to educate them about their obligations relating to accepting and disposing of waste, and in turn help prevent illegal dumping.

The EPA recognises the immense contribution local communities can make to combating illegal dumping and, under the Strategy, the EPA will increase its efforts to ensure local communities are involved in protecting their natural environment, and can help make decisions about their local area.

For example, the EPA will pilot a program working with the local community and volunteer groups to help identify local dumping hot spots, develop local illegal dumping prevention strategies and encourage community reporting of illegal dumping incidents.

6.2 Local councils

In NSW, local councils have the primary role of providing waste and recycling services to households, and waste management and recycling education to the community.

Under the POEO Act, local councils also have a regulatory role in enforcing requirements for waste management activities in their areas. Local councils act as the appropriate regulatory authority for managing and preventing illegal dumping in their local government area, unless the activity was a scheduled activity under the POEO Act or the activity was carried out by a public authority.

In general terms, local councils are responsible for regulating illegal dumping by householders and by offenders illegally dumping less than 200 tonnes. Nevertheless, local councils do tackle larger dumps using their planning powers.

In addition to the POEO Act, local councils can use other legislation to address illegal dumping incidents, including the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, the *Impounding Act 1993* and the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Some local councils have published strategies that address local illegal dumping issues specific to their region. The EPA supports this proactive approach and encourages local councils to work closely with Local Aboriginal Land Councils, industry, local communities, non-government organisations, neighbouring local councils, public land managers and volunteer groups to prevent illegal dumping.

6.3 Environment Protection Authority

The EPA is the primary environmental regulator for NSW. Our purpose is to improve environmental performance and waste management for NSW and we work hard to achieve this through a wide variety of programs and initiatives.

We work with the community, business, industry and government to maintain a balance between protecting the environment, managing competing demands on the environment and supporting sustainable growth.

The EPA is responsible for regulating scheduled activities listed under the POEO Act, such as illegal dumping cases that would have triggered the requirement for an environment protection licence and activities carried out by public authorities, for example state government agencies or local councils. In general terms, the EPA regulates large-scale illegal dumping incidents where the dumping activity, if conducted lawfully, would have required a licence.

The EPA also assists local councils and state government agencies in fulfilling their regulatory responsibilities under the POEO Act through capacity building efforts such as joint inspections, campaigns and training, where possible.

The EPA has published an online resource about illegal dumping for NSW public agencies. It is available at: www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/OnlineIIDumpRes/IIDumpLandManCounc.htm

6.4 Land managers

Land managers have clear responsibilities to maintain the land that they oversee and to minimise risk to visitors. Reporting illegal dumping to the EPA does not remove the requirement for land managers to lead the clean up of illegal dumping from their land and to promote preventative measures.

Under the law, land managers are responsible for taking action to ensure waste that is illegally dumped on the land they manage is disposed of at a place that can lawfully accept that waste.

Land managers may choose to contact a neighbouring public land manager or the EPA to seek advice or assistance with investigating and cleaning up the dumped waste. Working in partnership and cooperation with others may result in sharing the financial costs of the clean-up and remediation. Working in partnership can also help develop strategies to prevent illegal dumping recurring.

More information is available at:

www.epa.nsw.gov.au/waste/OnlineIIDumpRes/IIDumpLandManCounc.htm

6.5 Aboriginal land councils

The NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 establishes the NSW Aboriginal Land Council (NSWALC) and Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs).

The Act requires these bodies to:

- take action to protect the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area, subject to any other law, and
- promote awareness in the community of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons in the council's area.

LALCs are responsible for enhancing, improving and protecting the best interests of all Aboriginal persons within the council's area as well as any other Aboriginal people who may be members of the council. There are 121 LALCs covering most of NSW.

Illegally dumped waste affects the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal communities by disturbing their cultural values and Aboriginal people's relationship with Country. Aboriginal land is particularly susceptible to illegal dumping because it is often located in remote areas.

The EPA has developed the *Illegal dumping prevention: a handbook for Aboriginal communities* to help Aboriginal communities prevent illegal dumping, and clean up illegally dumped waste. Information in the handbook is also contained on a DVD.

LALCs are working with the EPA to develop local strategies for identifying illegal dumping hot spots, cleaning up illegally dumped waste, and taking preventive measures such as installing fences to control access to land. In 2012–13, the EPA provided \$177,991 in funding to assist Aboriginal communities to clean up waste dumped on their land.

The Aboriginal lands clean-up program aims to facilitate a partnership project that allows LALCs and local councils to develop and progress co-operative ongoing relationships through a collaborative project to address the social and environmental issues of illegal dumping occurring on Aboriginal owned lands.

6.6 Charitable organisations

Many charitable organisations operate drop-off 'bins' and shopfronts to collect clothing and other items for sale or distribution, and have reported to the EPA that household waste and clothing is frequently dumped around these facilities.

The charitable organisations that operate these facilities are then left with the burden of cleaning up and disposing of the dumped waste, which, due to exposure to weather or because of its poor quality, is not suitable for reuse or sale.

Local council is the appropriate regulatory authority for this type of dumping. There are opportunities for the EPA to work closely with local councils and charitable organisations to tackle the issue, including education and raising awareness, and taking regulatory action.

6.7 Public land managers

Public land managers deal with waste dumped on land they manage, often in regional and remote areas. Most public land managers, such as Crown Lands, Forests NSW and the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, manage very large land parcels. The Roads and Maritime Services manage state, regional and local roads, as well as road corridors. Land managers from the rail, water and energy utilities sectors manage and protect important and valuable public assets.

Common wastes dumped on publicly managed land include bulk household waste such as furniture, white goods, mattresses, garden waste, car bodies, tyres, and construction waste, including asbestos waste. Wastes are dumped in isolated areas, bushland, camping grounds, alongside access roads to remote areas and in rail corridors. Public land managers also deal with illegal waste dumping at stockpiles of raw products used in maintenance operations.

The EPA works with public land managers to provide guidance and operational support, and conduct joint compliance campaigns. The EPA encourages public land managers to establish and maintain working partnerships with other agencies, including local councils and Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) squads.

The EPA supports a proactive approach to combating illegal dumping by public land managers and encourages them to work closely with LALCs, industry, local communities, non-government organisations, local councils, neighbouring land managers and volunteer groups to clean up and prevent illegal dumping.

6.8 Regional Illegal Dumping Squads

Priority Action Goal 22 of *NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one* is to reduce the incidence of large-scale illegal dumping by 30 per cent by 2016.

Characteristics of illegal dumping can vary across local areas. For example, non-urban areas are more likely than urban areas to have green waste and tyres dumped.

Strategies and actions designed and implemented locally or regionally are required to ensure a targeted and effective response to illegal dumping, to promote community pride in clean, safe land and to engage local communities.

An example of an effective regional response to illegal dumping and illegal landfilling is the establishment of a Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squad.

Local councils can appoint officers and employees of their own and other local councils as authorised officers to manage illegal dumping incidents in their local government area. This approach facilitates the development of cross-boundary or regional illegal dumping prevention programs such as RID Squads. Like local councils, RID Squads generally deal with illegal dumping by householders and smaller dumps of construction waste.

A RID Squad currently operates in Western Sydney. It consists of rangers employed jointly by member councils and the EPA. The squad operates across member council boundaries to investigate and enforce breaches of NSW regulations regarding illegal dumping and illegal landfilling.

The EPA provides financial and operational support to the Western Sydney RID Squad and conducts joint compliance campaigns. *NSW 2021: A plan to make NSW number one* sets a priority action to establish two new RID Squads.

7 Monitoring and evaluation

7.1 Measuring success

The Strategy will underpin efforts to achieve the target to reduce the incidence of large scale illegal dumping by 30 per cent from 2011 levels by 2016.

The EPA will work closely with independent experts to develop a rigorous monitoring, reporting and evaluation framework for the Strategy.

Setting baseline evidence is key to tracking and evaluating ongoing performance against the target. The development of a statewide tool for local council, industry, land managers and the community to report illegal dumping will support this work.

The Strategy plans for further improvements to current data collection methods to improve overall performance monitoring and to identify further opportunities to target illegal dumping outcomes.

Annual reports will be produced after the end of each financial year, to report on the work done, funding committed and progress made under the Strategy.

7.2 Review

Information and evidence in relation to illegal dumping that is reviewed and analysed under the Strategy will inform future action. Accordingly, the EPA will review and update the Strategy by 30 January 2016.

Table 1: Combating illegal dumping – an integrated approach.

Tactic	Short description	Desired outcomes	Actions: The EPA will:
Partnerships – build local community partnerships	Establishing strong and collaborative partnerships with Aboriginal communities, charities, community partners, local councils, local communities, public land managers, RID squads and state government agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish strong and collaborative partnerships. • Increase opportunities for people to look after their own neighbourhoods and environments. • Give local communities power to make decisions. • Provide intelligence on possible offenders. • Establish positive social norms regarding waste disposal and recycling. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fund an annual program to prevent and clean up illegal dumping on Aboriginal land. 2. Establish an illegal dumping expert working group to help guide the implementation of the Strategy. 3. Fund the development and delivery of an illegal dumping pilot program. 4. Fund an annual program for local councils and public land managers to clean up orphan waste. 5. Fund an annual program for local councils and public land managers to identify local illegal dumping sites, implement prevention and clean-up action.
Build an evidence base through data collection and analysis	Enhancing intelligence and data on illegal dumping to ensure targeted, strategic action to prevent it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase knowledge and information through data collection and analysis of illegal dumping. • Guide the actions to combat illegal dumping to be targeted, strategic, localised and prioritised. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Conduct and publish research to build an evidence base (including the ‘who, what, when, how and why’ of illegal dumping) and release the information 7. Investigate innovative methods of tracking the transport of waste. 8. Publish a NSW illegal dumping data collection guideline in consultation with local councils and public land managers. 9. Introduce a state-wide data collection and reporting database.
Strategic enforcement – ramp-up waste compliance and enforcement	Detecting, investigating and prosecuting serious illegal dumping offences in a timely manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a broad range of tools to detect, investigate and prosecute illegal dumping offences. • Take action against people who deliberately flout the law. • Make regulation more transparent. • Continue to improve deterrence measures. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Conduct at least 12 waste compliance campaigns targeting illegal dumping every year. 11. Conduct four joint compliance campaigns annually targeting unlawful removal, transport and disposal of asbestos waste. 12. Increase waste compliance and enforcement on Aboriginal-owned and publicly-managed land (such as state forests and national parks). 13. Provide support and promote the use of surveillance and prevention techniques by local councils and public land managers to detect and deter illegal dumpers.
Capacity building – help build expertise	Providing local councils and public land managers with the knowledge and skills they need to implement practical solutions to combat illegal dumping.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide NSW Public Agencies and the broader community with the knowledge and skills to implement practical local and regional solutions to combat illegal dumping. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Establish a dedicated EPA Illegal Dumping Unit to take a leading role in implementing the Strategy and to provide local councils and industry with a single point of contact. 15. Deliver an online illegal dumping resource and provide operational support for NSW Public Agencies to help them prevent and clean up illegal dumping. 16. Establish at least two new Regional Illegal Dumping Programs (in Inner West Sydney and Hunter – Wyong) and continue to support and co-fund the Western Sydney RID Squad and the Southern Councils Group RID Program.
Education – spread the word	Guiding and educating industry and the community on the social, environmental and economic impacts of illegal dumping and improving community knowledge of correct disposal options.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasise that illegal dumping is socially unacceptable. • Improve community knowledge of correct disposal options. • Increase awareness of the social, environmental and economic impacts of illegal dumping. • Reinforce positive behaviours to improve legitimate waste disposal practices and change negative behaviours to reduce illegal dumping. • Increase awareness fines and penalties. • Discourage the local community and industry from using the illegal waste industry by identifying and communicating the risks and providing guidance on how to avoid them, and increasing the competitiveness of the legal waste industry. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Deliver a new illegal dumping communication package, which will include messaging, training, education and media aimed at increasing knowledge about the impacts of dumping, and how to do the right thing. 18. Commence a series of targeted education campaigns to build capacity in local government, land managers and community to prevent and tackle illegal dumping. 19. Continue to engage the waste industry to improve their knowledge of the waste regulatory framework and foster partnerships to encourage good behaviours.
Community engagement – motivate local communities	Supporting community involvement in combating illegal dumping, for example, by working with communities to identify local illegal dumping sites and designing and implementing dumping prevention strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage reporting of illegal dumpers until it becomes a routine social responsibility, like recycling. • Implement local strategies to ensure that local communities can care for their own neighbourhoods and environments. • Enhance the use of peers, social sanctioning and regulatory sanctioning to reduce illegal dumping and illegal landfilling. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 20. Fund a pilot program to help householders dispose of small quantities of asbestos waste. 21. Fund an annual program for local communities, charitable organisations and volunteer groups to help them prevent illegal dumping.