

NSW Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy 2022–2027

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Consultation Draft

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Street dumping. Cover photo: Jakki Trenbath/EPA

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Acknowledgement of Country

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The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) acknowledges the traditional custodians of the waters and land on which we live and work, and we pay our respects to Elders past, present, and emerging.

We recognise the connection to their land, their waters and surrounding communities and acknowledge their history here on this land.

We also acknowledge our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees who are an integral part of our diverse workforce and recognise the knowledge embedded forever in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander custodianship of Country and culture.

Dharawal Country, Royal National Park, NSW

Introduction to consultation draft

This is a consultation draft outlining the EPA's approach to illegal dumping over the period 2022 to 2027.

Your comments on the approaches outlined in this Strategy are invited on the EPA's Have Your Say webpage.

Context and background

The *NSW Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy 2022–2027* (the Strategy) builds on the foundation of previous successful illegal dumping strategies 2014–16 and 2017–21.

The Strategy is guided by the *Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041: Stage 1 2021–2027* which sets out a bold vision for NSW to transition to a circular economy within 20 years, and the Waste Delivery Plan.

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) is the lead agency for implementing the Strategy. All programs are delivered in partnership with land managers, charities, industry and the community. As illegal dumping is a problem that transcends state boundaries, we will also work with other states, territories and the Federal Government.

In preparing this Strategy, the EPA consulted with:

- councils in metropolitan Sydney, urban fringe, regional and remote areas
- state government agencies
- public land managers
- illegal dumping experts in the government and private sectors
- charitable recyclers and not-for-profit groups.

'Transitioning to a circular economy means we use our resources efficiently and make them as productive as possible. We will end up with less waste and emissions, less harm to our environment and more jobs. The move will boost innovation and help drive our economy forward.

We can create a circular economy by designing out materials that end up in landfill or as litter, reusing or repairing products before they are thrown out and recycling material so it can be used multiple times in manufacturing or building.'

NSW Government's Waste and Sustainable Material Strategy 2041 p4



Illegal dumping street sign. Photo: Evolving Images/EPA

Understanding illegal dumping



Illegal dumping is a complex social, economic and environmental issue. The scale, types of waste, locations, offender groups and drivers vary significantly across NSW.

Illegal dumping is the disposal of waste that is larger than litter, to land or water at a location where it is unlawful. It ranges from dumping bags of rubbish or unwanted household items in urban areas to larger-scale dumping of materials such as construction and demolition waste in more isolated areas. As shown in Figure 1, household waste made up more than half of illegal dumping incident reports in 2021–22. Illegal dumping can include harmful materials like asbestos.

Illegal landfilling is a form of illegal dumping where waste soil, often containing demolition waste and contaminants such as asbestos and heavy metals, is used as 'fill' without environmental controls and relevant approvals in roads, noise mounds, landscaping, reclamation and other works.

There is a wide range of offender groups (people who dump illegally), from unintentional dumpers to criminal enterprises. Residents contribute significantly to kerbside dumping (particularly multi-unit-dwelling residents) and outside charity stores. Opportunistic dumpers use national parks and other remote areas. Waste generated at construction and demolition sites contributes substantially to illegal landfilling, from single offenders through to repeat offenders, often associated with organised crime.

Cost, convenience, lack of planning and community attitudes are the key motivations for illegal dumping in general. However, the interplay of these drivers varies for different waste types, offender segments and locations.

The EPA distinguishes between litter as discarded waste up to the size of a full supermarket bag, and illegal dumping as anything larger. Although littering and illegal dumping have some similarities, there are different reasons behind the behaviour, which occurs at different places, times and rates. For this reason, the NSW Government has developed the separate NSW Litter Prevention Strategy 2023–2030.

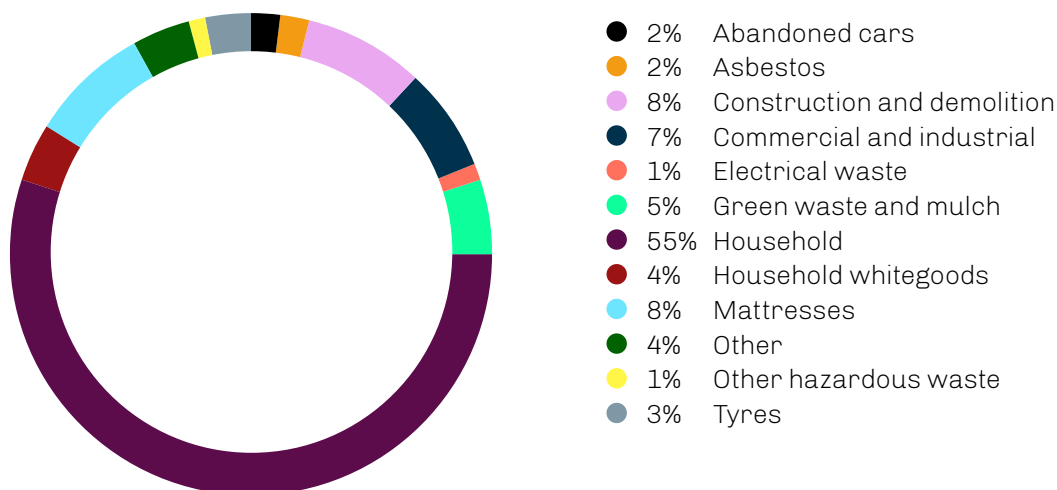


Figure 1. Types of illegally dumped waste by incidence in 2021–22. Source: RIDonline



Dumping in bushland is unsightly and is costly to clean up. Photo: North East Waste.

Why is it important to reduce illegal dumping?

Illegally dumped waste can harm human health, pollute the environment, reduce amenity, is costly to manage and results in a loss of resources. It is a serious issue for councils,

state government, public land managers and for members of the community. The wide-ranging impacts of illegal dumping on the environment and community are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 Impacts of illegal dumping

Environmental	Dumped waste can contaminate and degrade land, plant and animal habitats and pollute waterways. It can also pose a fire risk. Dumped garden waste can result in the spread of weeds.
Human	Dumped waste can affect our health, especially if it contains hazardous chemicals or asbestos.
Visual	Dumping makes public places unsightly, which lowers community pride and attracts more dumping.
Resource	Dumped waste leads to a loss of resources from the circular economy. Easily recycled resources, like whitegoods, tyres and green waste, are lost when dumped. Reusable goods such as furniture in good condition can become unusable after they have been dumped.
Economic	Dumping waste, especially hazardous waste, can lower property values. Cleaning up illegal dumping is a significant expense for councils, public land managers, private property owners and charities. Further details on the cost of illegal dumping are outlined below.

Cost of illegal dumping

The NSW EPA and the Queensland and Victorian governments commissioned research in 2021 that estimated the cost of illegal dumping on social amenity and the value the community places on a clean and safe environment. Based on a 'willingness to pay' survey, NSW residents' loss of amenity due to illegal dumping was valued at an estimated \$300 million. The research found that people are most concerned about illegal dumping in natural environments such as waterways and bushland. However, because of the extent and visibility of kerbside dumping, the community felt household waste presented the greatest overall cost to amenity.

Research completed in 2019 calculated the cost of managing illegal dumping in four representative local government areas in NSW. The total cost to councils, including collection, disposal and regulation, ranged from \$387,000 to more than \$8.5 million in 2017–18. This is \$5 and \$37 per resident per year or \$40–300 million in total.

Social and environmental trends impacting rates of illegal dumping

Significant disasters such as the 2019–20 bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in increased illegal dumping in NSW. Our RID online data indicated a 35% increase in reported dumping during lockdown, as waste facilities opening hours and services were reduced and householders spent more time at home decluttering and doing home improvement projects. Many councils and public land managers noted that dumping rates increased as international workers and students left in early 2020.



Illegal dumping is a common sight on kerbsides in some LGAs. Photo: Jakki Trenbath/EPA

Many parts of Sydney and regional NSW experienced a construction and development boom, including rapid growth in the housing sector over the past 5 years, particularly in multi-unit dwellings. An increase in the number of large-scale dumping incidents reported to the EPA coincided with a period of rapid growth in the housing sector, particularly multi-unit development construction in 2017. A drop in both was observed 2021.

The incidence of illegal dumping, tracked through RID online, has increased since 2016. Contributing factors may include:

- increase in illegal dumping due to cost of bulky waste disposal
- increase in illegal dumping due to population growth
- increased community concern regarding illegal dumping
- changes to bulky waste services resulting in some booked collections being reported as illegal dumping
- increased use of RID online for reporting illegal dumping.

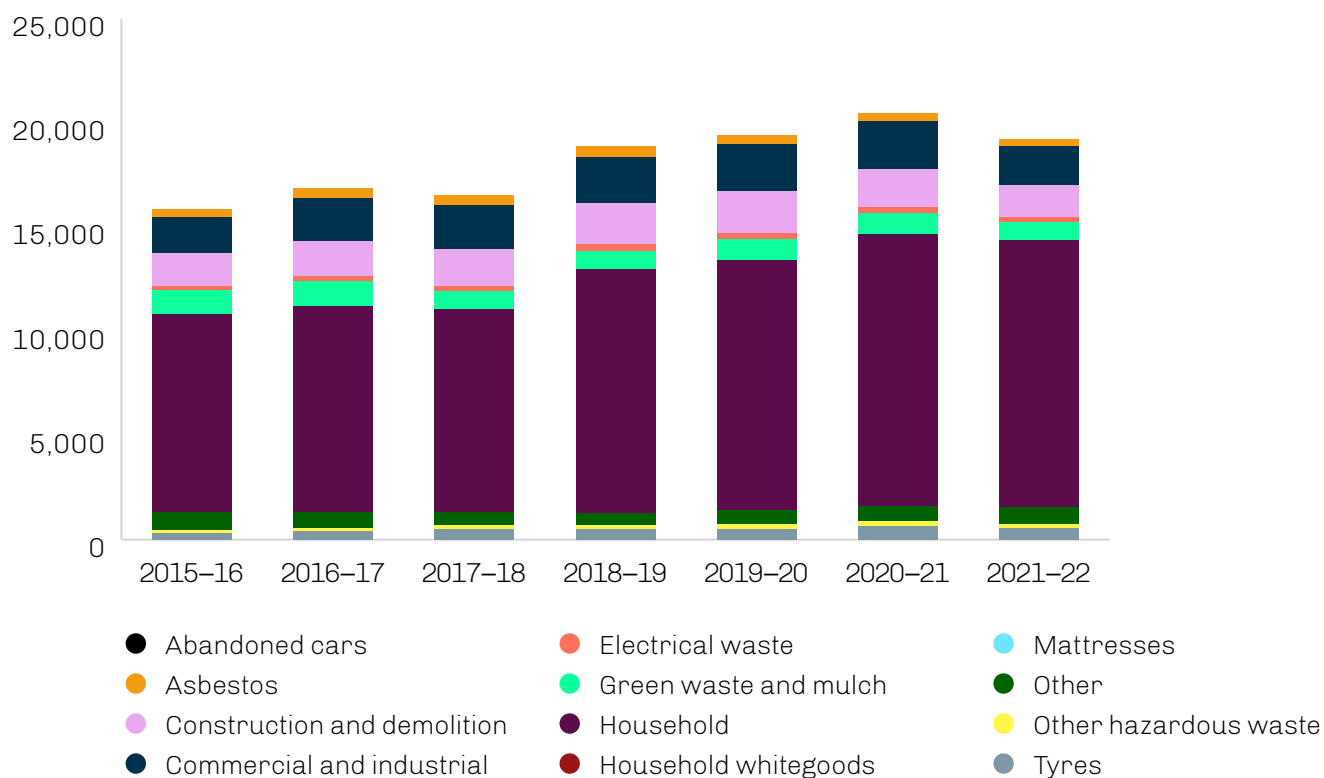


Figure 2. Reported illegal dumping incidents. Source: RIDonline

As seen in Figure 2, household waste is the most common type of small-scale illegal dumping reported via RIDonline. Incidents of most waste types have remained stable over time, however household waste has increased from 59% in 2017 to 67% in 2022 which may be influenced by:

- increased availability of low-cost household items with poor resale value and limited repairability
- increased proportion of community living in multi-unit dwellings
- changes to community perceptions around dumping of household waste.

Identifying these trends helps frame the illegal dumping strategy and assists the EPA to prioritise prevention approaches.

What did we learn from the previous strategy?

Our understanding of illegal dumping is evolving. We now know there are different drivers for different dumping incidents, waste types and dumper and these require different approaches. Our evaluation also told us that we should:

- build on the successes of the previous strategy by taking a more place-based, evidence-informed approach to illegal dumping
- clearly define, articulate and address the different types of illegal dumping and develop targeted approaches to address each type
- develop a measurement, evaluation and learning framework to identify achievable measures and targets, instead of having an across-the-board target to reduce illegal dumping.

What's our long-term vision for illegal dumping?

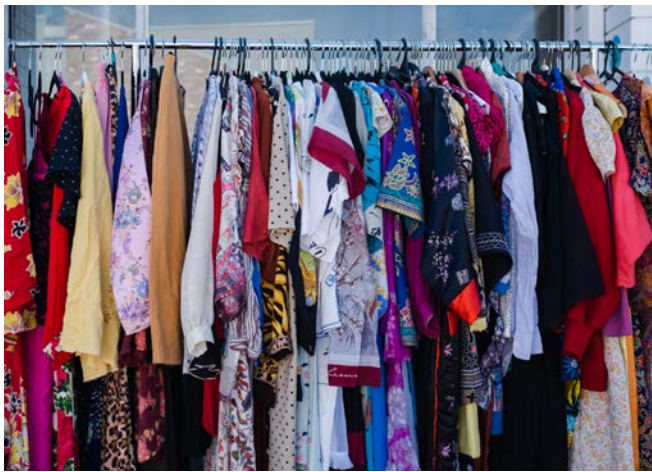


Photo: with permission from Garage Sale Trail.

The *EPA Strategic Plan 2021–24* has five focus areas – ecologically sustainable development, waste, water quality, legacy and emerging contaminants and climate change. Under waste our focus is:

'We take action to reduce the harmful impacts of waste and drive behaviours that create a circular economy.'

The waste outcomes are:

- The harmful impacts of waste are reduced and waste minimised.
- Community and industry actively contribute to a circular economy.
- Resilient systems and robust markets are available to keep waste materials circulating and to de-carbonise the NSW economy.



Photo: with permission from Garage Sale Trail.

Our desired ultimate outcome for illegal dumping is that natural environments and streetscapes in NSW should be free of dumped waste.

We will work towards this outcome in collaboration with all levels of government, not-for-profits, public land managers, industry and the people of NSW. We will know we are on the right track when potential dumpers choose not to dump waste illegally and that:

- social norms do not support illegal dumping
- community members know how to dispose, re-use and donate waste and unwanted goods responsibly
- adequate disposal, re-use and repair services and facilities are available to householders and the business, commercial and industrial sectors
- potential offenders perceive that the risks and costs of illegal dumping outweigh the benefits
- councils and other public land managers use evidence-based, best-practice approaches to illegal dumping.

Program focus areas

Illegal dumping prevention programs have been developed based on an understanding of the community segments, drivers, locations, waste streams and other contributing factors for the following three types of illegal dumping:

1. household waste items dumped by the public on the kerb and outside charity collection points
2. opportunistic dumping in bushland and unoccupied land
3. illegal landfilling of soil that may contain asbestos and building materials, often on private land.

Table 2. Understanding program focus areas

	Household and charity dumping	Bushland and unoccupied lands	Illegal landfilling
Community/offender segment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Householders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses that generate waste Small scale/opportunistic criminals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised crime Waste transporters and waste contractors
Key drivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community attitudes Convenience Lack of planning Avoiding disposal cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community attitudes Convenience Avoiding disposal cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profit Recipients' lack of awareness of issue
Contributing factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of services Lack of storage for bulky waste (esp. multi-unit dwellings) Unrepairable household items with shorter lifetimes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perception of consequences Likelihood of getting caught Availability of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complexity of rules
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerbside Charity bins/stores 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushland Industrial areas Easements Transport corridors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private property
Waste Stream	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household bulky waste Green waste Small quantities of building waste and asbestos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household bulky waste Construction & demolition Green waste Tyres Asbestos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excavated material and soil, often containing asbestos

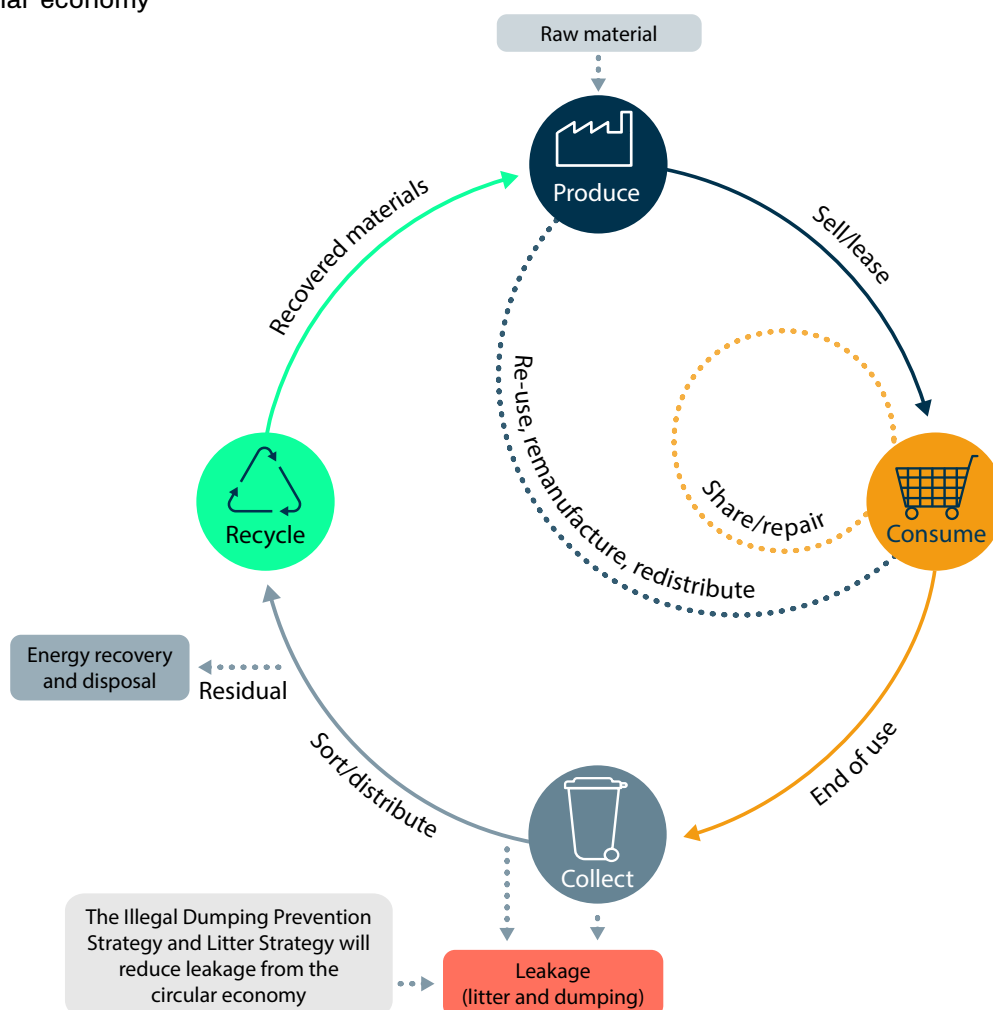
Approaches to combating illegal dumping

People dump different waste types for many different reasons and locations so tackling it requires a holistic approach. The Strategy uses the following six approaches to combating illegal dumping:

- moving towards a circular economy
- collaboration and capacity building
- services, infrastructure and clean-up
- behaviour change, awareness and engagement
- regulation, enforcement and legislative reform
- growing our evidence through research, monitoring and evaluation.

The following sections outline what has been achieved under each approach over the past five years and what the EPA plans to deliver over the next five years.

Figure 3. Circular economy



Approach 1: Moving towards a circular economy

How is illegal dumping connected with the circular economy?

The Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy 2041 explains how transitioning NSW to a circular economy will result in more resources being diverted from landfill. When items are illegally dumped they often lose their value because they are damaged by the elements and they end up in landfill. Along with litter, illegal dumping is 'leakage' from the circular economy and therefore needs to be addressed as part of this strategy.

What have we done so far?

The EPA is committed to addressing the social trends, behaviours and attitudes that result in illegal dumping. We therefore provide programs, messaging and support, so items that would otherwise be dumped are diverted towards recycling and reuse initiatives.

- The EPA has worked with the charitable recyclers to increase responsible donations rather than dumping at charity stores or donation points. This is important to reduce costs to charities for disposing of unwanted donations, as well as ensuring that good items are not damaged before being received by the charity.
- The EPA has worked with community organisations such as Garage Sale Trail and The Bower and supported events that encourage people to sell, buy and give away second items instead of sending them to landfill.
- Our street dumping messaging promotes re-use initiatives such as garage sales and selling online.

In 2020 the EPA trialled a communication campaign to encourage responsible donating and reduce dumping at charity shops and donation points.

The campaign messages were based on research which found that half the people who leave items outside charity shops or donate items in poor condition:

- don't realise these items are often unusable
- are unaware of the financial impact they are having on charities.

In late 2020, five behavioural messages were distributed across communities through a social media campaign and ads on local radio and in newspapers. Participating charities and councils displayed the messages as signs, posters, donation bin stickers and flyers.



How will we continue this work?

Approach 1: Moving towards a circular economy

Actions

- The EPA will explore opportunities for behaviour change campaigns that promote re-use, repair and second-hand market opportunities and spread messaging about responsible donations.
- EPA will continue to work with charitable recyclers and other organisations to support their work in encouraging responsible donation.
- EPA will support councils and not-for-profit groups working to increase re-use, repair and recycling of household items.
- We will conduct an audit of items dumped on the kerbside to determine the composition of dumped items and estimate the proportion that are reusable and recyclable.

Approach 2: Collaboration and capacity building

Why is it important to collaborate with stakeholders?

By working together we can improve skills, learn from each other's successes and share vital intelligence to identify and deter illegal dumpers.

Under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* (POEO Act) the EPA shares responsibilities for regulation of illegal dumping and compliance action. Councils and other public land managers are generally responsible for dealing with illegal dumping on their land while the EPA is responsible for regulating large scale illegal dumping and asbestos dumping under POEO.

What have we done so far?

The **Illegal Dumping Resource Kit** was developed in 2019 for councils and other public land managers to access RID artwork and branding, campaign materials, case studies and research reports.

We have delivered training to councils and public land managers to assist with developing and implementing illegal dumping projects and applying compliance and enforcement techniques.

We have also partnered with councils to trial kerbside dumping interventions aimed at reducing illegal dumping rates by addressing its drivers. Participating councils gained a better understanding of illegal dumping in their areas, which has led to enduring changes in how they address it.

How will we continue this work?

Approach 2: Collaboration and capacity building

Actions

- EPA will continue to partner with councils to develop approaches to reducing dumping of household items on the street.
- EPA will continue to build our illegal dumping resource kit, so we can learn from each other.
- EPA will continue to deliver training and capacity building in project and intervention design and regulation skills, guided by stakeholders' needs.
- We will work with councils and public land managers to establish a cross-tenure community of practice to showcase innovations, streamline cross-agency processes and enable place-based illegal dumping prevention approaches.
- EPA will hold illegal dumping seminars to share best practice and illegal dumping approaches.

Approach 3: Services, infrastructure and clean-up

How can services and infrastructure prevent illegal dumping?

Appropriate services and infrastructure have a critical role to play. Services and facilities for waste disposal and recycling must be adequate and accessible to residents if they are to deter people from illegal dumping.

Councils and public land managers need significant infrastructure and resourcing to prevent illegal dumping across large areas. Gates and barriers must be in the right locations to reduce opportunities for dumping and restrict access to secluded or remote areas. Cleaning up illegally dumped waste is important. It sends the message that waste does not belong there and it removes environmental and health risks. Keeping sites clean reduces the risk of more dumping.

Fit-for-purpose bulky household waste services and disposal, and re-use options, are critical to managing illegal dumping of household waste items on the street and in our bushland.

What have we done so far?

Grant-funded projects have decreased illegal dumping in target areas by installing preventive infrastructure such as cameras, signs, gates and fences and cleaning up dumped waste.



Installing fences or gates in hotspots is an effective way to prevent dumping. Photo: Cessnock City Council.



Local Council cleanup. Photo: Cessnock City Council.

To help the community correctly dispose of problem wastes, the EPA has two free collection programs delivered through local councils:

- Community Recycling Centres (CRCs) – permanent drop-off centres for common household problem wastes.
- Household Chemical CleanOut – scheduled events for the safe disposal of potentially hazardous household chemicals.

A total of 5,670 tonnes of potentially hazardous household waste was collected in 2020–21, an increase of more than 30% from the previous year. Both programs experienced unprecedented demand as many people renovated and cleared out their homes and garages while travel was restricted.

How will we continue this work?

Approach 3: Services, infrastructure and clean-up

Actions

- EPA will continue to support our partners to combat illegal dumping through illegal dumping grant programs.
- We will evaluate our Clean-up and Prevention grant program to inform future focus areas.
- We will continue to support community recycling centres so the public can safely dispose of problem waste.
- EPA will work with councils to investigate and develop evidence-informed asbestos disposal options that can be altered to suit different local government areas.
- We will work with councils to develop fit-for-purpose household bulky waste services and facilities.

Approach 4: Behaviour change, awareness and engagement

What do we mean by behaviour change, awareness and engagement?

The factors driving illegal dumping behaviours are complex and influenced by a range of global, national and local factors. Consumer trends, attitudes towards waste and waste-disposal and socio-economic conditions are key drivers.

Preventing harm gives better environmental outcomes than just cleaning up after damage is done. That is why targeted campaigns and measures to influence behaviour are important regulatory tools that can deliver great benefits for the community. Influencing and engaging with communities to improve environment protection is an important aspect of robust regulation. It is one of the key activities taking us towards being a world class regulator.

To reduce illegal dumping in the long term, we need to change how people think about waste and how they dispose of items they no longer need. This means delivering programs that change people's behaviour and influence their waste-management decisions.

What have we done so far?

The EPA has supported councils, public land managers and charities to engage with the community about illegal dumping. We have developed award-winning campaigns that deliver targeted messaging, such as the 'Free fill – is it worth it' campaign' and 'responsible donating' that aim to raise awareness and alter behaviours.

We have also developed 'report illegal dumping (RID)' messaging, branding and signs that we can all use to send a consistent message across NSW.

All our messaging is based on social research and customer-centric design so that it targets different behaviours, situations and barriers that lead to illegal dumping. We trial and evaluate the campaigns so we can ensure they are effective.

We have commissioned social research that has helped us develop and trial strategies that target different behaviours, situations and barriers that lead to illegal dumping.



EPA social media campaign focussing on the dangers of accepting free fill.

We delivered a Charitable Recyclers Action Plan that aimed to build partnerships, trial interventions and build capacity. We found that a focus on education messages about responsible donations had the best outcome on reducing incidents.

How will we continue this work?

Approach 4: Behaviour change, awareness and engagement for community and industry

Actions

- We will continue to roll out our award-winning social media campaign to warn property owners about the risks of accepting free fill that may contain asbestos or other contaminants.
- We will support councils' education and behaviour change campaigns through grant funding.
- We will build on our partnerships with charitable recyclers and not-for-profit organisations to support campaigns to promote responsible donation and enhance demand for second-hand items.
- We will continue to promote Community Recycling Centres and problem waste drop-off events.
- We will continue to support the use of illegal dumping prevention collateral by partners.



Mattresses are a commonly dumped item.
Photo: Evolving Images/EPA.

Approach 5: Regulation, enforcement and legislative reform

Why do we regulate?

Our research shows that fewer people will dump waste if they think they will get caught, or if they have already been caught in the past. We have developed signage to deter dumping and increase reporting, run strategic compliance campaigns and used a range of tools to target problem areas, opportunistic illegal dumpers and organised networks of unlawful waste operators.

Regulation and enforcement help to change behaviour, protect the environment and reduce health risks. Our approach is guided by the EPA's Regulatory Strategy 2021–2024.

What have we done so far?

The *Environment Legislation Amendment Act 2022*, *Plastic Reduction and Circular Economy Act 2021* and the NSW Waste and Sustainable Material Strategy 2041 demonstrated a shift away from responsive regulation and towards levers that could make more use of prevention and behaviour change tools.

We continue to support the Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) program in key areas with local councils. This program uses a regional approach to prevent and combat illegal dumping, recognising that dumping does not respect council boundaries. Each is a coordinated team of specialist illegal dumping compliance officers that undertake investigation and compliance activities as well as surveillance and proactive prevention campaigns. By coordinating efforts across regions, the RIDs increase the effectiveness of investigations and enable a more strategic approach to preventing illegal dumping.

EPA officers will continue to investigate high priority illegal dumping matters.

We established the Waste Crime Taskforce to address the most serious and complex waste-related crimes and organised criminal behaviour. The taskforce brings together experienced investigators, legal and intelligence staff and works closely with the NSW Police Force.

The EPA established Waste Crime Taskforce in 2017 to disrupt illegal business models operating within the NSW waste industry. It works to deter and disrupt waste crime through intelligence-led investigations and other regulatory interventions. Since its inception, the Taskforce has instigated over 50 charges against numerous individuals and companies for waste offences including land pollution and the supply of false or misleading information about waste. In addition, the NSW Police Force has instigated over 32 charges against four persons arising from joint police and Taskforce investigations.

One example of a successful Taskforce operation and investigation was Operation DARLARC, a 'search and seizure' operation which formed part of a complex and high-profile investigation into the unlawful disposal of asbestos-contaminated waste and the supply of false waste dockets to a developer. The operation involved up to 40 EPA and DPE officers, NSW Police and computer and environmental experts and it targeted five different premises across Sydney. The principal offenders were prosecuted and later convicted at court.



Photo of EPA vehicles onsite. Photo: Evolving Images/EPA

How will we continue this work?

Approach 5: Regulation, enforcement and legislative reform

Actions

EPA will:

- continue to co-fund the RID program in targeted regions
- produce intelligence products to assist in identifying key target locations and entities
- continue the Waste Crime Taskforce to deter and disrupt waste crime
- provide training and support on prevention and enforcement techniques to compliance officers in local government and other public land managers
- review effectiveness and appropriateness of regulatory tools for small-scale dumping
- enhance the investigation and enforcement powers of EPA officers and increase the penalties for waste crime offences
- continue to partner with the Queensland Department of Environment and Science to develop new digital hazardous waste tracking and data solutions across jurisdictions
- assess the feasibility of additional legislative reforms to prevent illegal dumping including in the areas of waste tracking and payment structures
- continue to test with industry options for a waste classifiers accreditation scheme and extended waste transporter licensing requirements.

Approach 6: Growing our evidence through research, monitoring, and evaluation

Why do we need to conduct research, monitor and evaluate our work?

Learning more about illegal dumping helps us review our actions and tactics. Compiling accurate and comprehensive data helps us direct and prioritise action. Knowing how big the problem is, where the problems are and what is being dumped and why, helps us know what interventions work, what doesn't work, and why.

What have we done so far?

One of the key pillars of the previous Illegal Dumping Strategy was to increase data collection, through establishing a state-wide database RIDonline for reporting and data collection. Public reporting to RIDonline increased sixfold from 2016 to 2022 and we now have over 1500 registered users. This has provided valuable data insights at the local level, allowing public land managers to identify hotspots and target interventions around waste types and location. We have also increased reporting by raising community awareness and increasing councils' investigative capacity.



Advertising RIDonline near Cobar. Photo Cobar Shire Council.

Research has provided a clearer picture of why illegal dumping is happening, its impacts and how to respond effectively. It has also helped us understand knowledge, attitudes and behaviours concerning illegal dumping. Research outputs are guiding the EPA's work and have been used by some councils and other stakeholders to guide their responses and inform better interventions. We have also developed a cost calculator to help councils determine the true costs associated with managing data.

The independent evaluation of our program found there was scope for greater use of the RIDonline system to capture better data on illegal dumping. The evaluation also told us we need to share our research and everyone's learnings and successes.

How will we continue this work?

Approach 6: Growing our evidence through research, monitoring and evaluation

Actions

- We will continue to promote and build capacity in using the RIDonline system.
- We will continue to improve the functionality of RIDonline in consultation with users.
- EPA will work with a group of selected councils with good existing data on illegal dumping to establish a baseline to track trends across the state. This will include public reporting via RIDonline.
- We will promote our cost calculator and support land managers to better capture the costs of managing illegal dumping.
- We will conduct an audit of items dumped on the kerbside to determine the composition of dumped items and estimate the proportion that are reusable and recyclable.
- We will continue to undertake social research into the community's knowledge, attitudes and behaviours regarding illegal dumping

Allocation of funding

Under the Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy, \$16 million is being invested over five years to deliver the EPA's illegal dumping prevention programs. The following streams have been identified:

- co-funding RID squads and programs
- illegal dumping grants, including Aboriginal land programs
- other illegal dumping prevention work such as research, training, behaviour change campaigns and development of collateral, tools and resources.

Note: This does not include the EPA's regulatory and compliance activities.

Measuring progress

We will develop a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning framework to track progress towards outcomes. Focus areas to be included in the framework are listed below in Table 3. Measures will be developed in conjunction with our stakeholders as achieving progress will be a joint effort.

Table 3 Measuring progress in program focus area

Focus	Potential measures
Community behaviours and awareness	Extent of public reporting of illegal dumping at representative locations 5-yearly community survey due to be repeated in 2024
Dumping of household bulky waste on the kerb	Numbers of reports and percentage of total reports that are kerbside waste at representative locations Customer satisfaction with bulky waste services
Large scale dumping and illegal landfilling	Number of large-scale dumping incidents reported to the EPA Repeat offenders prosecuted



Clean up of illegal dump on footpath. Photo: Evolving Images/EPA

