

Draft Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy 2022–27

Background

As part of the development of the Draft NSW Illegal Dumping Strategy 2022–27 (the **strategy**), a public consultation was held from 20 September 2022 to 17 October 2022, in tandem with the consultation for the NSW Litter Prevention Strategy 2022–30.

The strategy builds on learnings from the NSW Illegal Dumping Strategy 2017–21. This is an overview of the key themes that emerged from consultation with the community, industry and government.

Developing the draft strategy

Preparing the draft



60+ interviews with a variety of stakeholders



100+ people attended an online workshop in October 2021



Reviewed data, research and learnings.

Launching the draft in September 2022



689 views on 'Have Your Say'



700+ stakeholders mailout

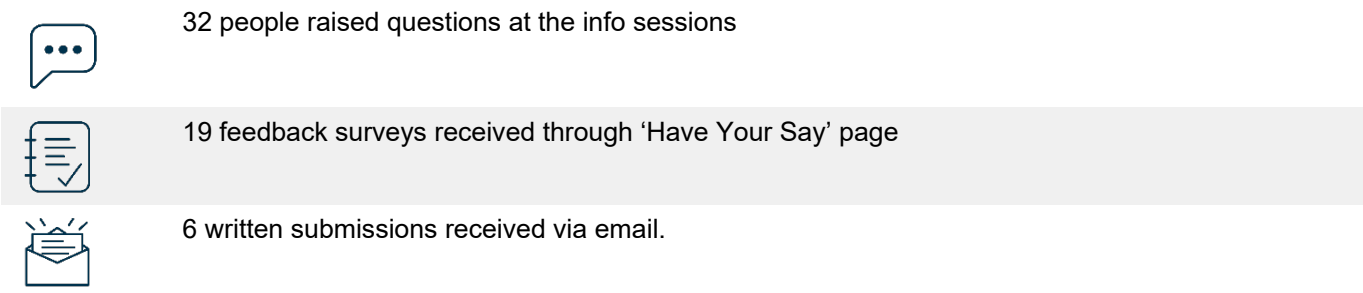


389 draft strategy downloads



150 attendees at two online info sessions with Q and A.

How many people did we hear from?



Who did we hear from?

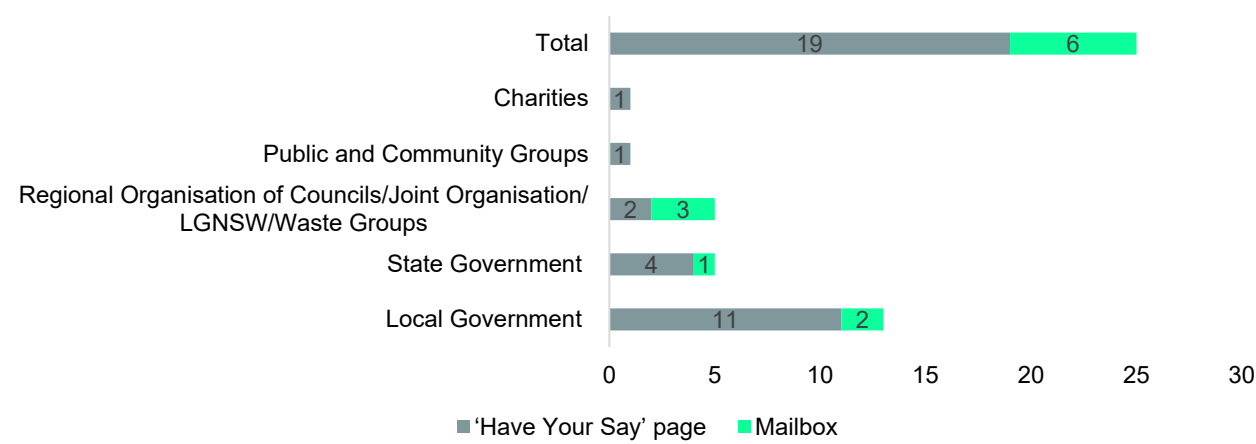


Figure 1: Types of stakeholders we received feedback from through two different methods.

What did we hear?

We heard that illegal dumping is a significant issue for many local and state government land managers. It places pressure on limited resources and funding, with dumping of asbestos being particularly costly.

There was an overall sense that the EPA’s proposed approaches to illegal dumping and focus areas are on the right track. Over 70% of respondents said the strategy was ‘very effective’ or ‘effective’, as shown in the next figure.

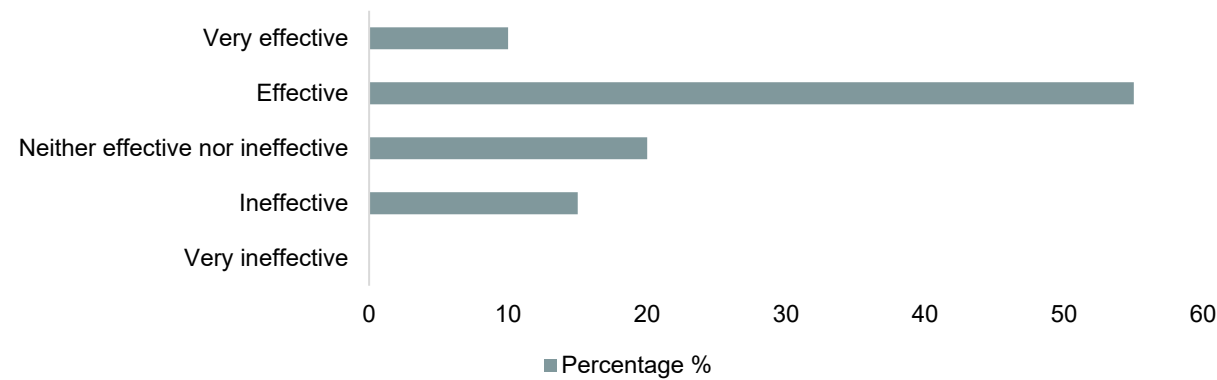


Figure 2: Stakeholders’ rating of the effectiveness of the strategy. Number of respondents = 20.

Key themes in the feedback include:

- There is a need for improved collaboration between public land managers as it will lead to better outcomes for all.
- The new circular economy approach outlined in the strategy is supported by many stakeholders. However, it was recognised that re-use and repair can only address some types of illegal dumping and resources are needed to implement actions. Several respondents asked the NSW Government to focus more on product stewardship to support circular economy ideals.
- Regions without Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) squads asked for more targeted assistance from the EPA, including funding and capability building.
- The Community Recycling Centre (CRC) program is highly valued by councils and is seen to contribute to a reduction of illegal dumping of certain waste materials. The problem wastes included in the CRC program was raised in several submissions.
- Consideration should be given to the increased frequency and nature of disaster events or extreme weather on illegal dumping and support be provided in this area.
- Stakeholders requested various legislative changes and asked that reviews happen quickly.
- Several respondents requested changes to how the waste levy applies in relation to cleaning up dumped waste.
- Stakeholders asked that the EPA consult with them when designing and implementing actions.



Car bodies. Photo: EPA

How we responded to feedback

The range of feedback we received highlights illegal dumping as a complex issue with many players, drivers, land managers and possible management solutions.

In response to feedback, several actions under the strategy have been revised, including:

- The actions relating to the circular economy approach have been revised to include undertaking research and collecting data to support re-use and recycling initiatives and investigating opportunities to leverage product stewardship schemes.
- The actions relating to Approach 2 have been revised to improve clarity and increase the focus on collaboration and capacity building, including a new action on place-based prevention approaches.
- The actions relating to Approach 5 have been revised to more clearly communicate the EPA's intentions for reviewing legal aspects.
- An action has been added to Approach 6, to develop a measurement evaluation and learning framework, in consultation with key stakeholders, to track progress in reducing dumping. Table 3, which listed potential measures of success for the program focus areas, has been removed.

An implementation plan has been developed that outlines the timeframe for the delivery of actions. We will work with our stakeholders to develop the actions.



Household waste. Photo: Port Stephens Council.

We will provide responses directly to stakeholders to the questions and comments that related to program delivery. We also note that:

- Clean up of waste associated with bushfires and floods is managed under NSW EPA bushfire and flood recovery programs and is outside the scope of the Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy.
- Comments on policy and legislative issues will be considered as part of regulatory and legislative reviews as outlined in actions under Approach 5.
- All suggestions regarding the waste levy will be considered in any future waste levy review.
- Any expansion to the list of items accepted by CRCs will be made in consultation with stakeholders, to make sure that proposed targeted waste types are given appropriate priority and that consideration is given to difficulties with their disposal and/or high environmental or health impacts.

What's next?

We will:

- release the NSW Illegal Dumping Strategy 2022–27 and Implementation Plan
- announce the opening of the first round of Illegal Dumping Prevention grants (under the Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy)
- continue to engage with key stakeholders as we scope actions outlined in the implementation plan.

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