

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the Regional Litter and Illegal Dumping Plan?

Funding has been provided to develop a **Regional Litter and Illegal Dumping Plan** that identifies key actions, such as education, awareness and enforcement initiatives as well as improved litter infrastructure, to address local litter and illegal dumping issues.

The regional plan will identify and prioritise the top five litter and illegal dumping (in total) issues for the region and develop an action plan that can be used to apply for external funding as it becomes available.

2. What is litter?

For the purposes of the survey, litter is broadly defined as small items of waste that is disposed of inappropriately.

3. What is illegal dumping?

For the purposes of the survey, illegal dumping is broadly defined as larger items, such as bigger than a shopping bag, disposed of inappropriately.

4. Why has funding for the development of a plan been provided?

Litter and illegal dumping of household and industrial waste are persistent problems in Victoria. While littering attitudes and behaviours have improved we need continued action to reduce littering and illegal dumping across the state.

The Victorian *Waste Education Strategy* (August 2016) includes an action (1.1) to develop Regional Litter and Illegal Dumping Plans to prioritise litter issues for each of the seven waste and resource recovery regions to encourage local planning to reduce and prevent litter prevention and illegal dumping.

Sustainability Victoria has provided the funding to develop these regional plans.

5. How will the regional plans be developed?

The plans will be the result of a partnership between the regional waste and resource recovery group (WRRG), councils, alpine resorts, state government departments and agencies, and community and environmental groups, and will be based on available local evidence to identify priorities for the region.

The plan will be developed by collecting existing available data, consulting with councils, alpine resorts, land managers and other stakeholders to obtain written and verbal data, and conducting an online community survey.

The research considers:

- > the *Victorian Waste Education Strategy*
- > each region's *Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plan*
- > each council's waste and resource recovery strategies (including education strategies if available)
- > the analysis of any litter and illegal dumping data across the region
- > relevant litter and dumping literature including littering behaviours, prevention and containment of litter and illegal dumping.



6. What are the important dates?

What	Date
Community survey	Wednesday 10 July–Sunday 4 August
Data collection and stakeholder consultation	July–August
Stakeholder workshops	19–30 August (North East 22 August)
Late September	Plan submitted to Sustainability Victoria

7. How will the community be consulted?

To help develop the plan, we are investigating community views, concerns and priorities about litter and illegal dumping of items that should have been disposed of correctly.

The community will be consulted through this *online community survey* asking separate questions about litter and illegal dumping that will be promoted widely.

8. How will stakeholders be consulted?

A stakeholder workshop will be held in each region between Monday 19 and Friday 30 August to:

- > present the analysis of the available data
- > present the results of the community survey
- > discuss the initial indications of the top five litter and illegal dumping issues from the Litter Scorecard (the results will be finalised after the workshop)
- > discuss actions to target the top five issues.

Stakeholders from the council, alpine resorts, the WRRGs, community groups and members, land managers and government departments and agencies will be invited to the workshop.

9. How will the top five priorities be determined?

All of the data will be used to complete Sustainability Victoria's *Litter Scorecard* to validate the top five litter and illegal dumping issues for the region.

The results of the data collection, community survey results and research will be presented to a stakeholder workshop where the top five litter and illegal dumping priorities will be confirmed and high-level actions to reduce and prevent the priorities will be agreed.

Together, these will determine the top five priorities and how to address each one over the next three to five years as external funding becomes available.

10. What is the Sustainability Victoria Litter Scorecard?

The Litter Scorecard is a multi-criteria analysis tool that categorises issues into:

- > Inadequate infrastructure – the need for more bins (waste and recycling) in public places, improved bin design, placement, and servicing and other litter prevention infrastructure.
- > Problem litter – the types and amounts of litter and the associated environmental impacts and clean-up costs.
- > Geography and concentration – the areas identified where litter is either concentrated as hot spots or is a more widespread problem.
- > Sources of litter – the human behaviour, business practices or other activities that result in litter.

Localised data from written or verbal reports is entered into the Litter Scorecard spreadsheet. Issues are themed and rated for environmental, social, economic, and health and safety impacts. The raw score and weighting produce a final score that results in the ranking of the issues.

11. How will the plan be implemented?

The three-to five-year action plan will include a variety of activities or interventions to reduce and prevent the top five (in total) litter / illegal dumping issues identified in the plan. It will include low cost actions that can be taken now as well as activities that will be ready to apply for funding as it becomes available.