



North East Regional Litter and Illegal Dumping Community Survey Highlights

As part of developing the *North East Regional Litter and Illegal Dumping Plan*, we consulted the community through an online survey that was open for nearly four weeks in July and August 2019.

Over 200 people across the North East region took the 15 minutes to complete the survey which included sections on litter and illegal dumping. People were asked to rate their top five types of litter and dumping and the top five locations in which they occurred in the region.

The majority of the community surveyed:

- are concerned about litter and dumping
- do the right thing and take action
- understand the broad range of impacts.

People in the region care a lot about litter and illegal dumping. Overall, the community believed people's attitudes followed by a low risk of penalties are the main causes of litter and dumping. A lack of knowledge and infrastructure issues rated much lower.

Survey definitions

Littering

Small items of waste disposed of inappropriately usually when people are 'on the go'.

Dumping

Larger items such as whitegoods, household waste, and building and demolition waste, usually disposed on kerbsides and roadsides, or in bushland.

Results

211 people completed the survey



Littering

80%
are concerned

86%
understand the impacts

TOP 5 CONCERNS

- 1 | hazardous to environment
- 2 | hazardous to marine life
- 3 | community appearance
- 4 | hazardous to animals
- 5 | blocks drains and causes flooding

WHY PEOPLE LITTER

- 1 | 88% lazy
- 2 | 84% don't care
- 3 | 80% someone else will clean it up
- 4 | 76% can't be bothered
- 5 | 70% won't be caught and fined

Dumping

86%
are concerned

93%
understand the impacts

TOP 5 CONCERNS

- 1 | community appearance
- 2 | attracts more dumping
- 3 | hazardous to environment
- 4 | hazardous to animals
- 5 | hazardous to marine life

WHY PEOPLE DUMP

- 1 | 89% don't care
- 2 | 82% can't be bothered
- 3 | 79% lazy
- 4 | 71% won't be caught and fined
- 5 | 67% someone else will clean it up

Findings of concern



5 out of 10 people
thought it was okay to throw away an apple core



3 out of 10 people
thought it was okay to leave unwanted belongings and rubbish out the front

Support for actions

Littering

TOP 5 ACTIONS SUPPORTED

- 1 | 75% provide more public recycling bins
- 2 | 68% fine or prosecute litterers
- 3 | 61% encourage reporting to EPA
- 4 | 59% install more bins
- 5 | 59% run an education campaign

Dumping

TOP 5 ACTIONS SUPPORTED

- 1 | 80% fine or prosecute dumpers
- 2 | 69% investigate dumpers and prosecute
- 3 | 65% more bins near campsites
- 4 | 62% more hard waste collections
- 5 | 62% encourage reporting to EPA

Reporting



Know they can report to Council



Do report to Council



Know they can report to EPA



Do report to EPA

Knowledge of bans



69%
know about the ban of e-waste in landfill



77%
know about the plastic bag ban

Top 5 priorities

	Littering	Dumping
Item	1 fast food packaging, scraps	household rubbish
	2 cigarette butts, packets	household furniture
	3 plastic bags bins	mattresses
	4 overflowing public street/park bins	garden waste
	5 drink containers, straws, lids	tyres
Location	1 rivers and creeks	bushland
	2 roadsides	rivers and creeks
	3 bushland and plantations	national/state parks
	4 recreational parks and gardens	vacant private land
	5 around shops	roadsides