

GREEN WEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Rubbish dumping, littering & illegal fill in the Green Wedge

Introduction

In 2013-14 the City of Greater Dandenong collected over 472 tonnes of illegally dumped rubbish, triple the amount collected in 2009-10. Illegally dumped rubbish can occur anywhere from nature strips through to rural locations.

As a result, Council anticipates spending approximately \$3.2 million dollars on litter management, dumped rubbish and street cleansing services in the 2015-16 financial year.

Taking steps toward prevention is therefore a key priority for Council.



Enforcement

Council has established a Litter Action Taskforce (LATF) to drive and coordinate Council's litter prevention programs.

Recent initiatives include the 'Dob in a Dumper' Campaign, Roadside Litter Prevention Program, Illegal Rubbish Dumping Education and Enforcement, Cigarette Butt Litter Campaign and monitoring of litter hotspots.

Dumping of rubbish and littering is illegal and both the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and Council can take enforcement action against litterers through fines and/or court proceedings.

The City of Greater Dandenong actively undertakes the pursuit and prosecution of litter and illegal dumping offenders. It is critical to continue to reinforce that littering and illegal dumping are not acceptable.

So what should residents do with their rubbish?

There are a number of ways residents can dispose of their rubbish legally.

At-Call Hard Waste Collection Service

An 'At-Call' Hard Waste Collection Service is available for all residential properties year round. Households receive one at call service per financial year equalling a maximum collection of 3m³ plus two mattresses. Residents may also have additional quantities of materials collected and/or additional collections on a "user pays" basis via a simple credit card transaction over the phone.

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Items accepted include mattresses and bed bases, scrap metal, metal car parts, household items, televisions, stereo equipment, appliances, glass, (mirrors and china must be wrapped and marked), timber in pieces no longer than 1.5 metres, carpet, metal tools and equipment, hot water systems, lawn mowers, whitegoods including fridges (remove door), washing machines, air conditioners and stoves.

Other Recycling Services

Council partners with other organisations such as Sustainability Victoria to provide other recycling services on a periodic basis, as detailed below.

- Detox your Home - a free drop off service for household chemical disposal
- Mobile Muster – free disposal of mobile phones at council’s customer service centres
- De-clutter events (Council offices)
- E-waste collections - via the “At Call” Hard Waste Collection Service and one off special events

Transfer Stations

The City of Greater Dandenong does not own or operate any landfill sites or transfer stations, however there are a number of facilities near Greater Dandenong that residents have access to, including:

- SITA Australia / Outlook Waste Transfer and Recycling Centre, 274 Hallam Road, Hampton Park
- Monash Waste Transfer Station and Recycling Centre, 390 Ferntree Gully Road, Notting Hill
- Clayton Regional Transfer Station, 654–718 Clayton Road, Clayton

- Knox Transfer Station and Recycling Centre, George Street, Wantirna South
- Frankston Transfer Station – proposed for 2015, to be based in Skye

These facilities provide the opportunity to dispose of other materials not readily accepted through, or which exceed the capacity of Council’s kerbside collection service, inclusive of but not limited to: Tyers, car batteries, oil, electronic waste (TV’s and computers), builder rubble and concrete, scrap metal and whitegoods and garden waste.

What if I see someone dumping rubbish/littering in my area, or notice dumped rubbish?

If you witness someone dumping rubbish or littering, you can report this by contacting Council on 8571 1000 or submitting an online report form at greaterdandenong.com.

You can also report illegal dumping and littering to EPA Victoria by contacting 1300 372 842 (1300 EPA VIC).

Please try to provide as much information as possible, including:

- items that have been dumped
- the location of the dumped rubbish/litter
- the date and time you saw the rubbish being dumped
- any identifying details such as vehicle make, registration and colour

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What happens once it is reported to Council?

When Council receives a report of dumped rubbish (or is patrolling and observes dumped rubbish) an officer will attend the site and investigate to see if there is any identifiable material in the dump.

Council officers will try and identify who has dumped the rubbish and, if evidence is found, a notice will be sent advising the dumper that they have breached the *Environment Protection Act 1970*.

A bright yellow 'illegally dumped' sticker or bright yellow tape will also be attached to the dump and illegal litter alert cards may be left at surrounding properties.

Council will remove reported dumped rubbish within 5 days.

Penalties for illegally dumping rubbish

Fines may be issued for failing to comply with illegally dumped rubbish notices.

There are heavy penalties for dumping rubbish, to a maximum of \$6000 if the matter is prosecuted in the Magistrates Court.

The illegal dumping of contaminated fill material, tyres, manufacturing, construction and demolition waste is an indictable offence, and can attract a maximum court penalty currently of \$610,700 or seven years imprisonment for an individual, and more than \$1.2 million for a corporation.

Illegal Fill

If you do not know where the fill is coming from, do not accept it.

While it may seem like a good idea, the consequences of poor quality fill (such as soil that contains waste), may ruin your land and make you liable to fines, prosecution and huge clean up costs.

The EPA has produced a useful fact sheet regarding the potential risks for landowners in accepting fill material on to their land. The information can be found at <http://www.epa.vic.gov.au/~media/Publications/1512.pdf>

In addition, before undertaking any fill exercise, please contact Council's Statutory Planning Department on 8571 1000 to see if you require planning permission for the works.

In many cases, land within the Greater Dandenong Green Wedge is likely to require planning permission for this type of activity.

Further information

Please contact Council on 8571 1000.

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