

# Green Waste Dumping Signage Policy

December 2021



## **POLICY**

The Green Waste Dumping Policy is to support the Council's vision and strategic objectives to protect and enhance Council-managed natural areas and parklands. Unlawful dumping has become less widespread since the introduction of FOGO but remains a threat to coastal and bushland areas. Where repeated, dump sites continue to spread weeds and cause further deterioration to the health and value of our local ecosystems and fauna habitat. Such activity has a high cost to both the Council and the community in terms of the processes necessary to combat the introduction and spread of weeds.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Policy is to reduce and deter the occurrence of illegal green waste dumping or other disturbance to vegetation on public land. The Council will pursue all outstanding debts promptly by letter, telephone or email contact as appropriate.

## **PROCESS**

The Council will provide clear, accurate and consistent advice through correspondence and possible community education and awareness regarding illegal green waste dumping on Council-managed land.

In the case of unauthorised illegal green waste dumping, the Council may erect signage on public land to educate the public about the long-term costs and damage caused by such behaviour.

These signs will contain a message regarding the consequences to the environment of green waste dumping and may be installed for a period of six months to two years depending on the frequency of occurrence. The sign will refer the community to the Council's website for information about options for managing green waste, including methods for composting grass clippings and using the kerbside Food Organics Garden Organics (FOGO) collection service or Resource Recovery Centre.

Where the offender is caught in the act of unauthorised illegal green waste dumping, witnesses, either staff or community members are encouraged to report the activity. An official report may be submitted to the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) providing the following information: date, time, location, vehicle registration or residential address of the offender (in cases of localised dumping).

Sign details will be entered into the Signage Register with monitoring timeframes.

The EPA will assess each case and issue fines where appropriate. Reporters must identify themselves but will remain anonymous to the offenders.

## **SCOPE**

This Policy applies to Council-managed Crown land and Council-owned parks and reserves with particular focus on coastal and riparian zones.

## PROCEDURE

Educational signage will be erected when clear breaches of the following regulations have been identified on Council-managed Crown land reserves or Council-owned land:

- . *Crown Lands Act 1976 Part VI – Unlawful Acts relating to Crown Land;*
- . *Litter Act 2007;*
- . *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994;* or
- . Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Waste Management) Regulations 2020.

Following identification of a breach:

- . Notify the Council’s Compliance Officer with the following details: location, amount, type and estimated cost for removal. This data will be officially recorded and entered onto the Illegal Dumping Database.
- . The green waste will be removed from the site and signage installed by the Building & Facilities Maintenance Team in close proximity of the removal.
- . Signage will remain in place up to a maximum period of two years. During this period illegal green waste dumping occurrences will be monitored, and the signage removed following a period of six months without incident.
- . Signage will be erected regardless of whether the identity of those responsible for the damage has been identified.

## SIGNAGE:

Signage will be 300mm x 400mm on a low post at 500mm–800mm off the ground and contain the words:

“Our natural areas are worth protecting

Garden waste spreads seeds, increases the nutrient levels in the soil and promotes weed growth.

Green Waste can be disposed of by composting, in your FOGO bin or at the Resource Recovery Centre at Lobster Creek Road, Ulverstone.

We encourage anyone with information to contact the Council 6429 8900”

Refer to Appendix for example of the sign layout.

## REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed every three years, unless organisational and legislative changes require more frequent modification.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

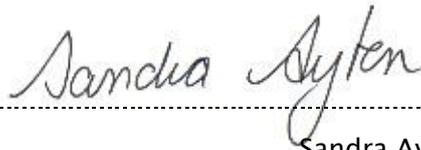
Unlawful Acts relating to Crown Land;

- . *Litter Act 2007*;
- . *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*;
- . Environmental Management and Pollution Control (Waste Management) Regulations 2020;
- . Central Coast Strategic Plan 2014–2024.

Date of approval: 13/12 2021/

Minute Ref No. 359/2021

Approved by:



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Sandra Ayton  
GENERAL MANAGER

## Appendix

Example for Green Waste Dumping signs:

**CENTRAL COAST COUNCIL**

# Our natural areas are worth protecting

## NO DUMPING

Garden waste spreads seeds, increases the nutrient levels in the soil and promotes weed growth.

Green Waste can be disposed of by composting, in your FOGO bin or at the Resource Recovery Centre at Lobster Creek Road, Ulverstone.

We encourage anyone with information to contact the Council

**6429 8900**