

# Green Waste Dumping Signage Policy

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## **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 is widespread – green waste being one of the more prevalent materials found. Without stricter controls the ongoing dumping of green waste will continue to spread weeds and cause further deterioration to the health and value of our local ecosystems and fauna habitat. Such activity is highly costly 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. 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 an ongoing education and awareness program to the community 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.

Where the offender is caught in the act of unauthorised illegal green waste dumping, witnesses, either staff or community members will be 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).

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 2010.

Following identification of a breach:

- . Notify the Resource Recovery Centre On–site Team leader 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 put in its place or as near as practicable.
- . Signage will remain in place up to a maximum period of three 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:

“NO DUMPING

Material such as lawn clippings and garden waste spread seed, increase the nutrient levels in the soil and promote weed growth. The long–term effects are costly and detrimental to the environment.

For information about lawful disposal options such as composting contact the Central Coast Council or visit: [www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au](http://www.centralcoast.tas.gov.au)

Report acts of green waste dumping by contacting the Council –tel. 03 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 2010;
- . Central Coast Strategic Plan 2014–2024



## Appendix

Example for Green Waste Dumping signs:

