

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority

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Local Nuisance and Litter Control Bill

A new Bill aimed at providing local government with clearer responsibilities when dealing with environmental nuisances and littering has been released for public consultation.

Current provisions under the *Environment Protection Act 1993* allow councils to deal with environmental nuisances such as smoke noise and dust but has not been mandatory.

This has meant that councils have the ability to 'opt in' as administering agencies or use their own authorised officers to utilise powers to regulate nuisance complaints, with the voluntary nature of this arrangement resulting in providing inconsistent levels of service.

The proposed legislation will provide councils with greater powers to deal with nuisance, litter and illegal dumping that will improve services to local communities.

EPA Acting Executive Director Operations Stephen Barry said the proposed *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Bill 2015* will allow all councils to act more consistently and with more effective tools when such incidents take place.

"The proposed Bill also aims to modernise litter laws in South Australia by providing improved controls and consolidating over time the numerous laws that currently cover these offences," he said.

Mr Barry said that although councils are already responsible for litter regulation under the *Local Government Act 1999*, the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Bill 2015* will improve their enforcement capabilities through the provision of more effective modern litter laws.

"The EPA will support local government in its transition to the primary management of local nuisance complaints tailored on the needs of councils," he said.

"Consultation on the draft Bill will include asking councils what support they would need from the EPA to assist with the transition and to make the new arrangements as functional and effective as possible."

Mr Barry said councils will continue to manage smaller scale illegal roadside waste dumping and the EPA Illegal Dumping Unit will continue to lead more significant dumping investigations.

Public consultation meetings will be held between 30 July and 12 August in:

- **Wudinna** (30 July) - Wudinna Telecentre, 44 Eyre Highway
- **Victor Harbor** (3 August) – Eat@Whalers 121 Franklin Parade, Encounter Bay
- **Karoonda** (4 August) – Council Chambers 11 Railway Terrace
- **Port Pirie** (7 August) - Port Pirie Council Chambers 115 Ellen Street
- **Adelaide** (11 August) – LGA Offices 148 Frome Street
- **Naracoorte** (12 August) – Naracoorte Lucindale Council Chambers DeGaris Place

Details of these meetings in addition to the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Bill 2015* are available on the EPA website at www.epa.sa.gov.au

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