

Penalties for illegal dumping

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EPA 970/24: This information sheet summarises the significant penalties for illegal dumping.

Minor neighbourhood nuisance issues, kerbside rubbish and litter remain the responsibility of local government and should be report to your council.

Operating a waste depot without a licence

The operation of a waste depot is a prescribed activity of environmental significance and requires authorisation in the form of a licence from the EPA. If you knowingly allow waste to be dumped on your property without an appropriate licence you could be fined up to \$60,000 and corporations face fines of up to \$120,000, under section 36 of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

Even if you unknowingly accept waste onto your property, illegal dumping can cost you thousands of dollars to clean up and leave your land contaminated, reducing its value. Neither EPA nor councils are responsible for cleaning up private property where illegal dumping has occurred. The cost of cleaning up waste is the responsibility of the landowner.

Unlawful disposal of waste

Individuals who dispose of waste illegally could be fined up to \$120,000 and face up to two years imprisonment and corporations face fines of up to \$250,000, under clause 10 of the *Environment Protection (Waste to resources) Policy 2010*. Licensed waste transporters could even have their EPA licence revoked.

Causing environmental harm

If you dump waste and the dumping causes serious environmental harm you could be liable for a fine of up to \$500,000 or four years imprisonment, or both, and corporations face fines up to \$2 million under section 79 of the *Environment Protection Act 1993*.

Disclaimer

This publication is a guide only and does not necessarily provide adequate information in relation to every situation. This publication seeks to explain your possible obligations in a helpful and accessible way. In doing so, however, some detail may not be captured. It is important, therefore, that you seek information from the EPA itself regarding your possible obligations and, where appropriate, that you seek your own legal advice.

Further information

Legislation

[Online legislation](#) is freely available.

General information

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