

Media Release

Environment Protection Authority



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EPA cracks down on uncovered trucks

The EPA Illegal Dumping Unit will be conducting a month-long campaign commencing this week targeting vehicles transporting uncovered or unsecured waste.

The crackdown will focus on the metropolitan area and involve EPA staff randomly auditing waste transport drivers. Drivers found to be in breach of the Environment Protection Waste to Resources Policy will be fined.

The EPA requires any person transporting waste to ensure that they take all reasonable steps to cover, contain or secure their load and to ensure the vehicle being used is maintained to prevent spillage or leakage.

According to EPA Director Strategy and Sustainability Tony Circelli, litter and waste that escapes from trucks and trailers being transported to waste facilities is a significant problem for the communities that live in close proximity.

“While most waste transporters are doing the right thing, there are a small minority that choose to ignore their responsibilities.

“The result is litter and potentially hazardous waste on the roadside, which can be transported to people’s properties, parks and gardens or end up in the stormwater system,” said Mr Circelli.

The Illegal Dumping Unit was established by the EPA earlier this year to target illegal waste activities such as illegal landfilling, illegal dumping of hazardous waste, commercial quantities of demolition waste, liquid waste and industrial waste and businesses operating without a licence.

To date the unit has had two successful prosecutions, issued three Environment Protection Orders and a Clean up Order, reviewed 119 complaints related to illegal dumping and currently have 19 active investigations underway.

“The EPA has adopted a zero tolerance approach to waste operators that do the wrong thing, which results in risks and pollution to the environment, and also undermining legitimate waste operators and the investments made by industry,” said Mr Circelli.

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