

**EN1 – Illegal Dumping Education Initiatives in Wollondilly**

**ENVIRONMENT**

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**Illegal Dumping Education Initiatives in Wollondilly**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The purpose of this report is to respond to Council resolution 369/2016.  
  
"That Council staff present a report to Council in relation to illegal dumping and preventative measures to deter dumping through education and awareness and signage in key hotspots. The report should identify options including a council run campaign or partnering in NSW EPA's RID campaign. Consideration should include funding options".
- This report outlines the current initiatives undertaken by Council to address illegal dumping, and possible future actions that may come out of these current initiatives.
- This report recommends that Council accept this report as a response to resolution 369/2016.

**REPORT**

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For the purposes of this report, littering is not considered as illegal dumping. Illegal dumping is defined by NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) as:

"Illegal dumping is the depositing – dumping, tipping or otherwise – of waste larger than litter onto land or into water. Illegal dumping varies from small bags of rubbish in an urban environment to larger scale dumping of waste materials in isolated areas, such as bushland".

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Waste Services, a team within the Environmental Services section, has primary responsibility for the collection and disposal of illegally dumped waste. They also have a joint responsibility, with the Compliance section, for developing and implementing strategies to manage and reduce illegal dumping, including community education. Compliance is responsible for the prosecution of waste-related offences, such as illegal dumping and littering unless the scale of the offence warrants the EPA as the appropriate regulatory authority.

In 2016, the NSW EPA's "Round 3 Illegal Dumping Clean Up and Prevention Grants" provided funding of \$20,000 to collect current data about Wollondilly's illegal dumping and to provide some analysis of this data. To date, data has been available through Council's internal CRM system in Authority and also through Council's illegal dumping collection contractor; however, it was difficult to determine any trends or to map locations over time in the current formats.

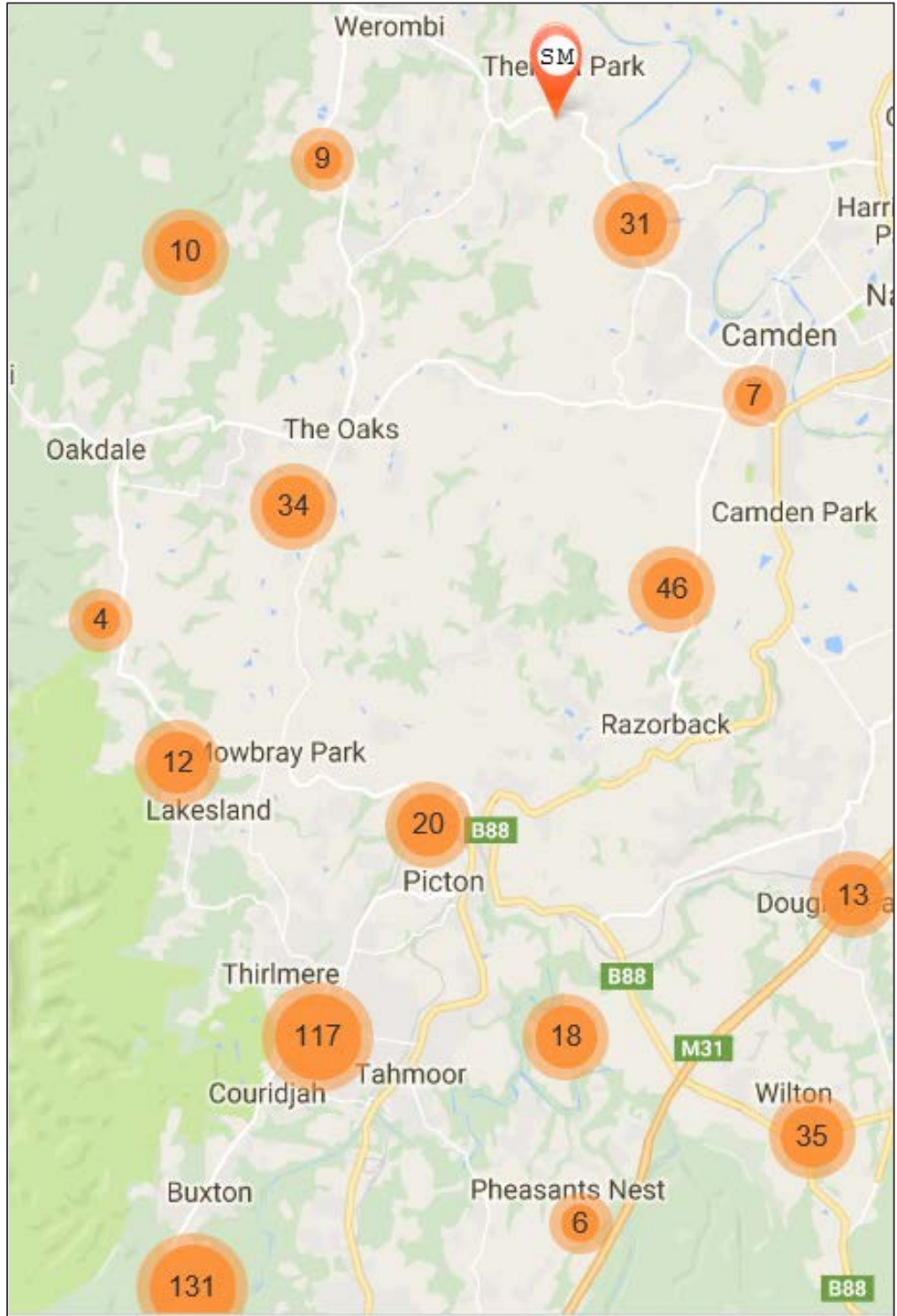
Securing of this funding has allowed Council to convert CRM and contractor information into a format that provides a range of valuable tools for the ongoing management of illegal dumping. This format is the NSW EPA's RID Online.

Go to: [www.epa.nsw.gov.au/illegaldumping/RIDonline](http://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/illegaldumping/RIDonline).

In December 2016 the consultancy undertaking the work presented to Council's Waste and Compliance teams a first view at what the data formatting was looking like. Below is an initial map of the locations of illegal dumping in the Shire since 2012:

(Please note: even though some locations look like they have very heavy incidences of illegal dumping, zooming closer online separates incidences into discreet locations).

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Additional information that is able to be sourced from RID Online are reports for costs, tonnages and material types collected and infrastructure mapping. RID Online also has a public interface that anyone can use. An app. can be downloaded onto a smart phone. This allows the public to select the location of the dumping, attach a photo and send it through to Council's public email address automatically.

With the updating of data onto RID Online, key staff within Council are registered users of the private interface of this website. Training for staff has been provided and will continue in 2017. This will enable staff to keep all future incidences of illegal dumping updated on RID Online in addition to entering incidences onto CRM (which creates a workflow for investigation and collection). Unfortunately, there is no integration of the two systems.

The use of RID Online by Council is a key requirement of the NSW EPA for any future funding opportunities in relation to illegal dumping. Future funding opportunities may include clean ups in areas with large scale dumping (on council or crown land) or additional infrastructure such as signage and cameras. Currently the Waste Team also have funding through the Better Waste and Recycling Fund for CCTV cameras, signage and education, which will be spent this calendar year.

The finalisation of this data and its analysis will be complete by May 2017. In addition, the consultants have been able to make a start on developing an updated Illegal Dumping Strategy through to 2021. This Strategy and accompanying Action Plan will use the collected data to make recommendations about locations for additional illegal dumping infrastructure, such as CCTV cameras, signage, barricades and fencing as well as targeted education around common illegally dumped materials such as mattresses.

Finalising the Illegal Dumping Strategic Plan and Action Plan will allow further education opportunities will be identified, which will be based on the information gained about illegal dumping in Wollondilly.

Other initiatives include:

- Promoting the Bargo Waste Management Centre to residents for the disposal of bulky household waste. This includes promoting free recycling for scrap metal and e-waste.
- Placing information on Council's website providing options for disposal of waste, while encouraging reuse and recycling.

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- Taking part in a regional MACROC waste campaign targeting construction waste and the use of skip bins on construction sites. With the increasing development of the Macarthur Region this is a good opportunity to partner with builders to promote correct disposal of construction waste. This project will be started in 2017/ 2018 financial year.
- The promotion of RID Online Public interface will be addressed with current funding through the Better Waste and Recycling Fund.

**CONSULTATION**

Consultation with NSW EPA Illegal Dumping Project Officers, Camden Council and Campbelltown Council Waste Officers and the MACROC Waste Coordinator has been ongoing. Information has been sought from Council's Illegal Dumping Contractor through their regular reporting of collection and disposal of materials.

Internal consultation has been held between Waste, Compliance, Customer Services and Works Teams. Additional consultation has been done by the Information Technology Team in regards to the use of CCTV cameras.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Current funding through the Round 3 Illegal Dumping Grants has allocated \$20,000 to the collection and formatting of data in RID Online, training of staff and the start of the Illegal Dumping Strategy. Current funding from the Better Waste and Recycling Fund of:

- \$100, 000 for CCTV cameras and other identified infrastructure
- \$30,000 for illegal dumping education campaign
- An additional \$8,000 for the completion of the Illegal Dumping Strategy if required is also available.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council accept this report as a response to resolution 369/2016.