

City of Ipswich Illegal Dumping and Litter Prevention Strategy

2020-2031





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1.1 Executive Summary

Under the provisions of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 (Qld)* (the Waste Act), Local Government is required to adopt a 'waste reduction and recycling plan'. Council's current waste reduction and recycling plan, titled 'Materials Recovery Plan 2017-2031' (MRP) was adopted in May 2017. The Illegal Dumping and Litter Prevention Strategy 2020–2031 (Dumping and Litter Prevention Strategy) forms part of the MRP.

The MRP provides a strategic direction to ensure waste is managed in a sustainable manner within Ipswich over the coming years. Central to the plan, is the circular economy approach which seeks to value waste as a resource by driving material recovery activities and demand for recycled content products.

With the population of Ipswich expected to double in the next twenty years, the MRP will set council on a pathway of innovative waste practices that will see the concept of waste be re-evaluated and re-imagined. Ipswich City Council is willing to lead the way in facilitating new businesses and economic mechanisms to support the circular economy model.

In alignment with Advance Ipswich (Ipswich's community plan), the MRP will echo the vision of Ipswich to be a place to live, learn, play, work and invest. The 'One Big Thing' that the community voiced was creating a sense of pride in the city whilst highlighting innovative business and employment enterprise opportunities are maximised. As such, the circular economy approach responds to the community's expectations.

1.2 Stakeholder Identification

The stakeholders that are considered integral in the development, implementation and support of council's Dumping and Litter Prevention Strategy have been identified below:

- major industry
- all council departments
- ratepayers and residents
- councillors
- community groups
- government agencies
- visitors to the Ipswich region
- real estate agencies
- local businesses
- offenders
- witnesses.

1.3 Definitions

'Littering' is usually small in individual particle size and therefore is less than 200 litres in volume. Common types of litter include:

- cigarette butts
- drink bottles
- fast food wrappers
- material thrown from a vehicle or that is poorly secured to a vehicle
- grass clippings purposely swept/deposited into the gutter or storm water system
- paper, tins and bottles left in an open or public space
- any objects left lying in open or public spaces that make an area untidy with rubbish e.g. intentionally leaving waste behind, not using site bins, etc
- building site packaging waste or unused products made of material such as paper, polystyrene, webbing or plastic e.g. unsecured material on building sites, inadequate bins, etc.

'Illegal dumping' is the unlawful deposit of waste that is greater than 200 litres in volume or size of articles that are not delivered to waste management facilities provided by council and other private companies.

Illegal dumping includes items such as bags of rubbish and garden waste. It also includes larger scale dumping of building (construction and demolition) materials, household goods (such as whitegoods, mattresses and furniture), abandoned cars and car parts, scrap tyres and hazardous waste.

1.4 Environmental Considerations

Potential environmental impacts of illegal dumping and littering can include:

- contamination of land, including degrading plant and animal habitats
- dumped garden waste can contaminate surrounding bushland and road reserves resulting in weed infestations (the majority of weeds in Australia are considered 'garden escapees')
- pollution of local bushland, reduction of biodiversity values and inhibiting natural revegetation
- runoff from illegal dump sites may contaminate soil and water sources, such as lakes, dams, creeks and adjacent oceans
- dumped items can alter the normal drainage course of runoff and make areas more susceptible to flooding and erosion when waste blocks creeks, stormwater drains and gutters
- dumped materials could catch fire either by spontaneous combustion or arson, which can damage property and bushland and pose threats to human life; and illegally dumped items are a lost resource.

Many items can be recycled at council's waste facilities for nominal charges, particularly organic green waste material, beverage containers, fridges, computers, tyres and car bodies.

1.5 Social Considerations

Potential social impacts of illegal dumping and littering can include:

- a reduction in the aesthetic amenity deters people from visiting areas where there is frequent illegal dumping
- dumped items pose physical and chemical hazards, such as protruding nails or sharp edges and harmful fluids or dust
- dump sites may attract rodents and other vermin that pose health risks
- dump sites attract further dumping and other anti social behaviour such as graffiti and vandalism, which can decrease community pride and further exacerbate the problem.

1.6 Financial Considerations

The financial costs for local government dealing with illegal dumping are principally associated with staffing resources, including:

- responding to customer service requests and complaints
- evidence collection/surveillance of known dumping areas/enforcement of offences
- collection/transportation/disposal of illegal dumping
- education/engagement.

Where possible, council will access grant funding to assist with offsetting costs associated with littering and illegal dumping.

2. EXISTING RELATED OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS

2.1 Street sweeping

Council undertakes sweeping of the streets within the local government area in an effort to reduce the amount of litter and road debris that enters the stormwater systems. This activity is coordinated through the Ipswich Waste Services business activity of Ipswich City Council.

2.2 Park Maintenance and Mowing Operations

All parks maintenance crews undertake litter removal while servicing various areas throughout the region including parks, reserves, and open space areas.

The mowing of parks, open space, easements, drainage reserves, roadsides and council owned land is managed through the Infrastructure and Environment Department and contract providers. Normal operations for operators are to pick up litter that is on the area to be mowed prior to the mowing operation being undertaken. The current contract provider is very diligent with this activity and the resultant clean roadsides and parklands within their operational areas reflect this commitment to the environment.

2.3 Waste services

Waste Services provide transfer stations throughout the region in response to local needs and waste management practices. These stations have various opening hours and are of different volume capability to reflect the needs of individual locations. Refer to council's website at ipswich.qld.gov.au and click on Waste for specific site information.

Contracted collections of household garbage and recycled bin services are provided to households in the majority of the regions towns and urban areas. These services deliver waste to the nearby waste management facility and also take recycled materials to the recycling facility for sorting and future use.

Council also provide all Ipswich residents a great value and convenient green waste collection service, turning green waste such as grass clippings, prunings, leaves, fruits and vegetables into compost. The service also accepts low-grade waste paper that can't be recycled in the yellow lid recycling bin such as shredded paper, shopping docket, paper towel and tissues. The organic material from this bin is collected on a fortnightly basis and then mulched and turned into compost at a local composting facility.

2.4 Education Programs

Council offers free waste education programs for local schools and the Ipswich community as part of its commitment to assisting residents dispose of waste responsibly and minimise waste going to landfill. These programs include:

- Schools Program
- Waste and our Environment
- Towards Zero Waste
- Community Program

Other waste initiatives supported and encouraged by council are Clean up Australia Day, Compost Week, National Recycling Week, Nude Food Lunch Day and the Recycle 4 Program.

3. PLANNING FRAMEWORK

As mentioned, this Strategy forms part of council's Waste Reduction and Recycling Plan, known as the MRP which is required pursuant to the Waste Act. The MRP has been developed to provide a strategic approach and the practical means for waste management for the period 2017-2031, with the provision to review the plan on a three yearly basis.

The Queensland government has recently released the Queensland Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy which provides an overall direction

for managing waste across the state. The MRP reflects the principles and objectives set out in the Queensland Government strategy and builds on council's previous Waste Management Strategic Plan 2010-2015.

In relation to Ipswich City Council's (ICC) corporate documents; the MRP aligns with the goals and intent of the Advance Ipswich community plan and the Corporate Plan 2017-2022. There are other linkages with existing council strategies and plans that are currently in progress.



4. STRATEGY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Litter and Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy aims to address the many impacts of illegal dumping and litter occurrences within the Ipswich local government area. The strategy outlines existing actions and proposed new actions to encourage the community to reduce waste production and decrease the amount of littering and illegal dumping.

4.1 Goal of the Strategy

To preserve, protect and enhance the appearance, health and natural environment of the Ipswich Region by:

- minimising the incidents of littering and illegal dumping in Ipswich region
- driving positive long-term change in community attitudes and behaviours to prevent littering and illegal dumping.

4.2 Objectives of the Strategy

1. To raise community awareness of the effects of littering and illegal dumping and thereby encourage positive community action.
2. To reduce the volume of litter and waste illegally deposited and disposed of within the Ipswich Region.
3. Increase in enforcement action against offenders.

5. EXTENDING OUR COMMITMENT

5.1 Raise community awareness

5.1.1 Existing Actions

- Undertake media releases where need arises
- Publicly reporting on people who are found guilty of littering and dumping offences
- Litter, waste and recycling education through various council programs.

5.1.2 Proposed Actions

- Utilise social media to increase community awareness on reporting offenders
- Engage with stakeholders to increase community awareness
- Ongoing promotion and support of council programs.

5.2 To reduce the volume of litter and illegal waste

5.2.1 Existing Actions

- Clean up illegal dumping sites where no offender can be identified
- Street sweeping local roads throughout the region
- Participate in community programs like Clean Up Australia (CUA) Day
- Provision of recycling and green waste bins to Ipswich community
- Apply for grant funding to support targeted programs.

5.2.2 Proposed Actions

- Continue with all existing actions identified in 5.2.1
- Review land owner's responsibility for clean up of illegal dumping as well as developing partnerships with land owners and industries where dumping hot spots are identified
- Continue to apply for funding to support targeted programs that directly relate to littering and illegal dumping prevention.

5.3 Increase in enforcement action against offenders

5.3.1 Existing Actions

- Investigate and enforce illegal dumping and littering complaints
- Illegal dumping hot spot hidden camera installations undertaken.

5.3.2 Proposed Actions

- Continue with all existing actions identified in 5.3.1
- Increase the number of dedicated officers to undertake enforcement action associated with littering and illegal dumping
- Increase the number of known illegal dumping locations under surveillance
- Identify and implement innovative methods and techniques to detect illegal dumping and littering offences.

6. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

To enable the reduction of litter and prevention of illegal dumping activities within the Ipswich Region, the following table of implementation activities has been developed. These activities shall be reviewed regularly to enable updates of the strategy document and to inform Ipswich City Council of the outcomes from the implementation plan. It is anticipated that data collected throughout the year will be collated and used alongside anecdotal evidence to benchmark the outcomes of this strategy.

Objective 1: To raise community awareness of the effects of littering and illegal dumping and thereby encourage positive community action.

Action	Priority/ Frequency	Resources	Lead Division	Support Division	Unit of measure
Marketing, Education and existing Education	Quarterly	Existing budget allocations	Marketing	PRS I&E (Works and Field Services) Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Views of media releases from website ▪ Impressions on Facebook site relating directly to planned activities ▪ Noticeable reduction of litter in the environment by key staff ▪ Feedback from councillors, staff and the community via surveys and anecdotal evidence.
Engage with stakeholders to increase community awareness	Ongoing	Existing budget allocations	PRS	Marketing and Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of visits to major industry to discuss correct waste disposal ▪ Distribution of education material through stakeholders regarding illegal dumping and correct waste disposal.

Objective 2: To reduce the volume of litter and waste in the environment of the Ipswich Region.

Action	Priority/ Frequency	Resources	Lead Department	Support Department	Unit of measure
Clean up illegal dumping sites – no offender identified	High/ Ongoing	Works and Field Services	I&E (Works and Field Services)	Waste	Record of tonnage collected reported annually and compared to previous periods.
Street sweeping local roads throughout the region	High/ Ongoing	Street sweeping trucks	I&E (Works and Field Services)	Waste	Schedule for servicing of roads maintained or increased and tonnage collected recorded and reported monthly.
Develop partnerships with land owners of dumping hot spots and major industry groups	Medium/ Ongoing	Compliance Officers	PRS	CC&E	Details of correspondence sent and received recorded in corporate systems.
Continue to apply for external funding for additional resources and staff	High/ Annual	Grant Management	C&P	PRS	Review and where required, prepare reports of cost associated with the additional resources.

Objective 2: Increase in enforcement action against offenders.

Action	Priority/ Frequency	Resources	Lead Department	Support Department	Unit of measure
Investigate and enforce illegal dumping and littering complaints (including issuing clean up notices where offenders are identified)	High/ Ongoing	Compliance Officers, Parks Services	PRS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of Customer Service Requests lodged and actioned within relevant timeframes ▪ Number of Penalty Infringement Notices issued ▪ Number of clean up notices issued.
Illegal dumping hot spot hidden camera installations	High/ Ongoing	Infrared cameras as required when activity in area dictates investigation	PRS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hot spots identified and recorded ▪ Record and document instances of illegal dumping and report on occurrences of activities for sites under surveillance.
Investigate innovative methods and techniques to detect illegal dumping and littering offences	Medium/ Ongoing	Compliance Officers and Managers involved in the prevention of dumping and littering. Budget for the purchase of innovative equipment.	PRS		Record and document the use of new equipment to determine any improvements in offence detection.
Take pro-active action when dumping is sighted	Medium/ Ongoing	Existing – Compliance Officers manage the complaints and do some proactive work in the area allocated.	PRS		Record the complaints and proactive work performed (e.g. kerbside dumping of furniture and associated enforcement action).

7. STRATEGY REVIEW

The Litter and Illegal Dumping Prevention Strategy actions will be reviewed and reported as part of the MRP.



City of
Ipswich


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