



Green Waste – Illegal Dumping

Many of us think that by putting our green waste into a natural area is okay, as it is a natural product. However dumping of green waste introduces excessive and inappropriate organic matter, weeds and other potential plant disease and pests into our environment

What is green waste?

Garden and/or green waste includes lawn clippings, mulch, branches and lopped material, tree trunks and stumps, leaves, unwanted and dead plants, seeds and fruits.

So, how is it harmful?

By casually disposing of your garden waste into the environment you may:

- contribute to increased fuel loads in bushland areas, making control of a bushfire more difficult for emergency services,
- increase nutrient loads in our waterways, which can cause toxic algae blooms and fish deaths,
- contribute to localised flooding by washing into stormwater drains and blocking pipes,
- spread invasive weed species,
- destroy the natural beauty of bushland and decrease its appeal,
- attract more illegal dumping,
- cost ratepayers and Council money to clean up and dispose of the dumped material appropriately and
- serve as a breeding ground for rats and mice, creating vermin issues for neighbouring properties.

How can we help?

Help Yourself

Your green waste can be a powerhouse for your own garden.

- Composting produces useful materials that can be put back into your garden to improve soil health.
- Using green waste as a mulch around your garden can protect soils from erosion, reduce weeds and plant stress, and can help to prevent water evaporation from the soil.



Help your Environment

- Recycling your green waste by composting reduces waste to landfill and can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

How Council helps

- Council will accept your green waste for free (up to 4m³ or 1 tonne).
- Council utilises this green waste to its maximum potential. It turns unwanted green waste into a mulch product that complies with Australian Standard AS4454.

Is it an Offence?

It is an offence to put your garden waste onto land that does not belong to you.

- Fines for an individual >200L is over \$ 2,000
- Fines for a corporation >200L are over \$ 10,000

Help catch the wrongdoer!

You can report illegal dumping by either contacting Council on 1300 79 49 29; via Council website “Report an Illegal Dumping Incident” link or download Snap Send Solve app to report.

