



## Green Waste – Illegal Dumping

Many of us think that by putting our green waste into natural bushland is okay, as it is a natural product. However, these actions can have serious consequences to the environment and our community.

### 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,
- bring disease, pests and weeds into areas of native bush,
- 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 4m<sup>3</sup> 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 contacting Council on 1300 79 49 29.

