

Fact Sheet

1.1 Dumping garden waste

Garden or green waste is any material from your garden including:

- lawn clippings
- branches / palm frond
- weeds
- leaves
- seeds and fruits
- other unwanted garden waste.

Many residents do not realise that dumping green waste in natural bushland leads to a degradation of the environment as well as affecting the scenic and recreational values of the area.

Why is it a problem?

Dumping of garden waste in bushland is a problem for many reasons including:

- it may contain seeds/cuttings that will grow in natural bushland
- many of these plants become environmental weeds
- lawn clippings contain thousands of grass seeds and cuttings that grow wherever they are dumped
- it poses an increased fire threat in bushland and fire break areas
- weeds compete with local native plants
- native plants have adapted to low nutrient levels and dumped garden waste increases the nutrient levels in soil

- higher nutrient levels increase the prevalence of weeds and are detrimental to native plant species
- loss of native plant species affects native animals reliant on these species for food and/or shelter
- illegally dumped green waste and weeds increased the workload for community volunteer groups and council

How can I help?

- compost your garden waste and return the nutrients to your own garden
- take your garden waste to the tip where it can be mulched, composted and reused
- subscribe to council's green waste bin program
- grow low maintenance local native plants in areas adjoining natural bushland.



Composting is good for your garden and the environment

Illegal dumping

It is illegal for residents to dump green waste in bushland.

Illegal dumping also increases the cost of managing bushland areas. It potentially increases the fuel load and fire risk in bushland areas.

Residents may **Dob in a Dumper** by contacting council on (07) 5329 6500, providing the car registration and/or photos to assist in identifying the offender. Your contact details will be required but will remain confidential.

Waste Reduction and Recycling Act

Dumping of green waste on public lands such as nature strips, roadsides, parks and bushland reserves is illegal and a fine may be incurred. Offenders may also be required to restore the area to its previous natural condition.

Require more information or assistance?

Additional information and advice regarding the maintenance of the bushland in your area can be obtained from council.



Asparagus fern

Bushland management and protection fact sheet series

1.1	Dumping of garden waste
1.2	Are you a good bushland neighbour?

Littering and Illegal Dumping Penalties (as at 1/9/14)		
Offence	Penalty Infringement Notice (PIN)	
	Receiver	Amount
Dangerous littering	Individual	\$455
	Corporation	\$1,821
General littering	Individual	\$227
	Corporation	\$1,138
Illegal dumping less than 2500L	Individual	\$1,821
	Corporation	\$5,692
Illegal dumping more than 2500L	Individual	\$2,277
	Corporation	\$8,538



A large dumping of lawn clippings in bushland = 2 staff at least four hours per person + vehicles to remove