



# Resource Recovery Gippsland Regional Litter and Illegal Dumping Plan Community Survey Highlights

As part of developing the *Resource Recovery Gippsland Regional Litter and Illegal Dumping Plan*, we consulted the community through an online survey that was open for nearly four weeks in July and August 2019.

Over 300 people across the Gippsland region took the 15 minutes to complete the survey which included sections on litter and illegal dumping. People were asked to rate their top five types of litter and dumping and the top five locations in which they occurred in the region.

The majority of the community surveyed:

- are concerned about litter and dumping
- do the right thing and take action
- understand the broad range of impacts.

People in the region care a lot about litter and illegal dumping. Overall, the community believed people's attitudes followed by a low risk of penalties are the main causes of litter and dumping. A lack of knowledge and infrastructure issues rated much lower.

## Survey definitions

### Littering

Small items of waste disposed of inappropriately usually when people are 'on the go'.

### Dumping

Larger items such as whitegoods, household waste, and building and demolition waste, usually disposed on kerbsides and roadsides, or in bushland.

## Results

313 people completed the survey



Littering	Dumping
<b>76%</b> are concerned	<b>91%</b> are concerned
<b>85%</b> understand the impacts	<b>86%</b> understand the impacts
<b>TOP 5 CONCERNS</b>	<b>TOP 5 CONCERNS</b>
1   hazardous to marine life	1   community appearance
2   hazardous to environment	2   hazardous to environment
3   community appearance	3   hazardous to marine life
4   hazardous to animals	4   attracts more dumping
5   blocks drains and causes flooding	5   hazardous to animals
<b>WHY PEOPLE LITTER</b>	<b>WHY PEOPLE DUMP</b>
1   88% don't care	1   88% don't care
2   85% lazy	2   83% can't be bothered
3   79% can't be bothered taking to bin	3   78% lazy
4   78% someone else will clean it up	4   71% someone else will clean it up
5   77% won't be caught and fined	5   70% costs too much

## Findings of concern



**4 out of 10 people**  
thought it was okay to throw  
away an apple core



**4 out of 10 people**  
thought it was okay to leave unwanted  
belongings next to charity bins

## Support for actions

### Littering

#### TOP 5 ACTIONS SUPPORTED

- 1 | 76% provide more public recycling bins
- 2 | 73% fine or prosecute litterers
- 3 | 65% install more bins
- 4 | 59% encourage reporting to EPA
- 5 | 53% run an education campaign

### Dumping

#### TOP 5 ACTIONS SUPPORTED

- 1 | 79% fine or prosecute dumpers
- 2 | 73% more hard waste collections
- 3 | 71% provide bins near campsites
- 4 | 67% investigate dumping and prosecute
- 5 | 64% promote where to take things

## Reporting



Know they can  
report to Council



Do  
report to Council



Know they can  
report to EPA



Do  
report to EPA

## Knowledge of bans



**69%**  
know about the  
**ban of e-waste in landfill**



**77%**  
know about the  
**plastic bag ban**

## Top 5 priorities

	Littering	Dumping
Item	1  fast food packaging, scraps	household rubbish
	2  plastic bags	household furniture
	3  overflowing public bins	garden waste
	4  drink containers, straws, lids	tyres
	5  cigarette butts, packets	mattresses
Location	1  beaches	bushland
	2  roadsides	beaches
	3  rivers and creeks	residential streets
	4  festivals	roadsides
	5  bushland and plantations	rivers and creeks