



# Installation of preventative infrastructure

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) used an EPA grant to install signs, fences and surveillance cameras at locations on the Central Coast to prevent illegal dumping.

## Project details

### Duration

EPA grant: Nov 2017 to April 2018

### Cost

\$23,000 plus in-kind contributions

### Approaches used

NPWS installed signs, fences, surveillance cameras and conducted regular patrols of 'hotspots'.

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## What was the problem?

NPWS used baseline data to determine the types of waste dumped and illegal dumping hotspots. It identified three key hotspots in the Wyrabalong National Park and Tuggerah State Conservation Area. The waste types associated with each were:

- hotspot 1 – construction and demolition waste dumped from cars along the road
- hotspot 2 – construction and demolition waste and general mixed waste dumped in the surrounding bushland
- hotspot 3 – household waste dumped by residents and beachgoers.

All three hotspots are isolated but accessible by vehicle – prime places for illegal dumpers to dump waste without being caught.

## What did NPWS do?

This project aimed to prevent and deter dumping. Prevention measures included:

- RID-branded signage
- barriers restricting access
- increased regular patrols of the three hotspots.

Making dumping harder by using infrastructure like fencing also showed that NPWS was actively managing the dumping, and increased the perceived risk of getting caught.

- At hotspot 1, signage was strategically installed to block ocean views. This was to deter people from parking and dumping rubbish from their cars. Changing the way this area is used by the public has made it less appealing to illegal dumpers.
- At hotspot 2, signage and boundary fencing were installed to prevent dumpers from easily tipping waste into the adjacent bushland. Only smaller quantities of waste are now being dumped at this hotspot.

- At hotspot 3, barriers were installed to prevent access.

During the project, 18 illegal dumping incidents were recorded in the local government area. This equated to about 12.3 tonnes of waste to clean up.

Following the project, dumping is occurring less often at these hotspots and the volume of dumped waste has decreased.

## What did NPWS learn?

Overall, restricting access was the most effective way to reduce illegal dumping at the three identified hotspots. Targeted prevention measures were effective at reducing specific types of waste and the frequency of illegal dumping. Other types of waste, such as general litter, are now considered a more significant issue at these sites.

Data collection is vital. NPWS adopted the RIDonline system to gather data for this project. It let NPWS easily locate, identify and characterise the illegally dumped waste.

Vandalism of signage has been a challenge. Signs need ongoing maintenance.

From this project NPWS learned that cleaning up an area and installing signs and other prevention measures can reduce illegal dumping.

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### Photos

NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service

### NSW Environment Protection Authority

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One of the hotspots before and after the project



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