



Environmental MATTERS

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Littering Laws

The Queensland Government amended the littering provisions in the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* in October 2007 to allow for stronger, more flexible and enforceable anti-litter provisions, particularly in relation to littering from vehicles. Litter is any domestic or commercial waste and any material a person might reasonably believe is refuse, debris or rubbish. Litter can be almost any material that is disposed of incorrectly. Litter can also be an abandoned vehicle or an abandoned part of a vehicle. Fines can apply for incorrectly disposing of litter.

| Queensland Littering Laws Type of Litter | PIN Individual Fine | PIN Corporation Fine | Maximum Penalty - Court |
|---|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| General Littering Throwing cigarette butt into the gutter or food wrappers, bus ticket or food items left on the ground. | \$200 | - | \$2,000 |
| Littering from a Vehicle (including boats) Throwing a soft drink can, takeaway food packaging or plastic bag from a car or boat; or items falling off the back of a ute or trailer as a result of an uncovered load. | \$300 | \$1,200 | \$3,000 |
| Dangerous Littering Any litter that can cause harm to humans, wildlife and property. This includes broken glass left in a children's playground or a lit cigarette in dry grass. | \$400 | \$1,600 | \$4,000 |
| Illegal Dumping 20 - 200 L > 200 L Disposing of waste in an area that is not a dedicated waste facility - large domestic items such as fridges and garden refuse and waste from construction, demolition and excavation activities. | \$ 400 \$1,650 | \$1,600 \$6,600 | \$ 4,000 \$16,500 |
| Illegal Dumping - Failure to Clean Up Waste A person requested to clean up illegally dumped waste does not comply within the timeframe specified. | - | - | \$10,000 |



Noise Pollution

Noise from domestic and commercial activities can affect neighbouring properties by disrupting sleep and interfering with normal daily activities. Noise nuisance can impact on people's health and wellbeing and consideration of the surrounding community should be made when conducting an activity that produces a noise nuisance.

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* provides for noise nuisance guidelines and enforcement by prescribing standards for noise levels and

appropriate times that certain activities can occur.

Noise nuisance can be reduced by:

- limiting the hours of use,
- the location of the activity,
- maintaining or selecting quieter equipment,
- using fences, enclosures or barriers,
- modifying the activity so that noise is not generated.

For further information on nuisance noise guidelines please contact Council's Environmental Health Department.



E-Waste

E-waste refers to the waste from electronic devices such as computers, printers and mobile phones.

Every year Australians are encouraged to upgrade their electronic equipment, but what happens to all that waste? Many electronic devices that are dumped in landfill every year can release dangerous toxins into the environment like lead, mercury, cadmium and arsenic.

Although Australia does not yet have a national recycling strategy for e-waste, there are some things that you can do to reduce and recycle electronic equipment.

- Supported and funded by 7 of Australia's leading print manufacturers the program 'Cartridges 4 Planet Ark' accepts all types and brands of printer cartridges for recycling. All Australia Post shops in Gladstone are participating in this campaign.
- The official mobile phone industry



recycling program is called Mobile-Muster. Your old mobile phones can be dropped at any Gladstone Regional Council office or library. Last year the Council collected 38Kgs of mobile phones for recycling!

- There are a number of companies in Queensland that can recycle, refurbish or reuse computers, printers and photocopiers. Find out more at: www.recyclingnearyou.com.au.
- Have you considered asking your local school, day care or sports club if they need old computers, televisions or phones? Do what you can today to divert e-waste from landfill!



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“When one tugs at a single thing in nature, one finds it attached to the rest of the world”

Protecting Our Mangroves

If your premise backs onto a sensitive area such as a mangrove area, remember all marine plants are protected under Queensland law. The destruction, damage or disturbance of marine plants without prior approval from Fisheries Queensland is prohibited and carries hefty penalties. Protection applies to all marine plants, no matter where they grow (ie. on all private and public lands).

WHY ARE MANGROVES IMPORTANT? In the past, mangroves have been considerably undervalued. The wetlands in which mangroves occur have been considered 'wastelands', or breeding grounds for nuisance insects such as mosquitoes. However, mangroves serve three key functions:- they provide habitat, they provide food; and they act as a buffer; reducing erosion and maintaining water quality.

The reason mangroves are a "marine plant" and protected by Queensland law is due to their significance as fish habitats. Gladstone region is one of the best fishing spots in the world. Don't allow your business's activity or anyone else's to destroy these important plants.



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