

## LITTER AND THE LAW

The Litter Act 1979 outlines what litter is and what constitutes littering. It defines the penalties for each offence and what modified penalties may be issued.

Littering offences are investigated and actioned by either the Rangers, Police or officers from the Keep Australia Beautiful Council.

Illegal dumping is now covered in the Environmental Protection Act

### MODIFIED PENALTIES

Insecure or uncovered loads	\$200
Cigarette butt litter	\$200
Bill posting	\$200
Leaving flyers on cars	\$200
Breaking glass	\$500
Putting domestic rubbish in public bin	\$200
Abandoning a shopping trolley	\$200

### COURT FINES

Insecure or uncovered loads	\$1000
Cigarette butt litter	\$1000
Cigarette butt disposal (Bush Fires Act)	\$1000
Bill posting	\$1000
Leaving flyers on cars	\$1000
Breaking glass	\$1000
Fail to give name and address	\$1000
Putting domestic rubbish in public bin	\$1000
Illegal Dumping (EP Act)	\$125000

**This brochure is an overview guide only. Please consult the legislation for full details and penalties.**

## HOW TO REPORT LITTERING

Do you believe you have seen littering occur or found some dumped litter? Contact the City of Karratha Ranger Services with as much detail as you can. Did you notice or get any of the following:

- Persons name and address
- What sort of vehicle it was- make, model, colour or registration number;
- Date, time and location of offence;
- Type of litter;
- Location of the problem.
- Did you take a photo on your camera or phone?

If so, to make it even easier for you we have an online litter report form at:

[www.karratha.wa.gov.au/litterreportform.aspx](http://www.karratha.wa.gov.au/litterreportform.aspx)

[www.kabc.wa.gov.au/litter-reporting](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au/litter-reporting)

Fill it out with as much detail as you have.

*“Our aim is to enhance the safety and security of our community through public education, liaison, awareness and if required enforcement.”*

**City of Karratha  
Ranger Services**

**Contact: 9186 8555**  
[enquiries@karratha.wa.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@karratha.wa.gov.au)

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# Litter and Littering

## RANGER SERVICES

## WHAT IS LITTER?

Litter is defined as anything unwanted and discarded where it is not meant to be. Green waste dumped in the bush, an apple core out the window or grass clippings over the back fence, even bill posting or flyers on cars is litter.

Litter is an unsightly scar on our beautiful Pilbara landscape. It encourages pests and vermin and looks unsightly. It can cause fire and health issues and costs every one of us money to clean up.

Litter can include pieces of paper, snack food, confectionery wrappers, fast food packaging, bottle caps, glass, glass alcohol bottles, plastic straws, bags, soft drink bottles. Also any items that fall , blow or unwrap off of your trailer, ute or truck can also be classed as litter.

## IS YOUR LOAD SECURED?

If you are carrying items in a trailer, ute, truck, boat etc and it has the potential to leave, fall or blow from where it is, then the load is classed as insecure

Even if the items do not leave the area you could be issued fines against the Litter Act.

Remove loose items and secure or cover everything else.

## COVER YOUR LOAD COMPLETELY AND SECURELY

## WHY DO PEOPLE LITTER?

When a survey was conducted of people caught littering, these are just some of the excuses given;

- Litter is not an important concern to them
- Green waste wont harm the environment
- Someone else is paid to pick up the litter
- The bin is too far away
- Its just a cigarette butt

Facts show that littering generally occurs within five metres of a bin, particularly in the case of cigarettes.

## ARE YOU A LITTER TYPE?

There are a number of litter behaviour 'types'. If you litter, do you fall into one of these:

- **Wedgers:** who hide litter in cracks
- **Buriers:** who bury their litter (particularly on beaches)
- **Foul shooters:** who take basketball shots at the bin and leave this misses.
- **Inches:** who gradually distance themselves from litter items
- **Tossers:** who throw litter from vehicles
- **Insecure:** persons who don't cover or secure their loads

## JUST A TINY CIGARETTE BUTT

Is finishing a cigarette, dropping the butt on the ground or in the bush such an issue? Many smokers don't believe so.

Unfortunately when 96 million cigarettes are smoked everyday it can mean a lot of butts will end up in our environment. In fact 42% of WA's litter stream comes from incorrectly discarded butts.

What are the hazards? Apart from the unsightly look of butts on the ground, the chemicals in the butt are concentrated toxins. They will pollute the water and land where they fall, they will kill wildlife and they will start bushfires. Many animals, homes and properties have been lost from a tiny butt.

Just extinguish your butt and bin it; it's not hard. There are also many handy pocket ashtrays that can be used to store butts until you can get to the bin.

For further details on pocket ashtrays, please contact Keep Australia Beautiful on 08 6467 5122

[www.kabc.wa.gov.au/litter-reporting/cigarette-butts.html](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au/litter-reporting/cigarette-butts.html)

