

Tuesday 22 July 2015

CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL DUMPING

City of Ryde Council is calling for public help following a growing number of incidents of illegal dumping of mulch.

The illegal dumping is happening on public and private property, in streets in front of homes, carparks, back lanes and quiet areas easily accessible by vehicle.

“Illegal dumping is not only an ugly scar on our landscape, it is also very harmful to the native environment that the Council and community work so hard to preserve,” Council’s Waste Manager, Jude Colechin, said.

“There are unscrupulous operators who charge people to clear trees and garden organics then simply dump the refuse on public or private land.”

In one brazen incident, a truck operator approached an elderly lady in her garden asking if she would like some mulch. She thought this was a very kind offer and said she would happily take a couple of buckets full for her garden. When she returned with a bag for the mulch the truck had dumped 2 – 3 tonnes of mulch on her nature strip.

Council relies on Ranger patrols and resident tip offs to catch perpetrators. Here is what you can do to help:

- When somebody takes rubbish away from your property you remain legally responsible for it until it is properly disposed of at a licensed facility.
- If somebody is transporting waste on your behalf make sure you keep records including details of the person who transported it and their vehicle, where the waste was taken and copies of any dockets or receipts.
- Report any incidents of illegal dumping as soon as possible by phoning Council’s customer service on 9952 8222.
- Any details about the vehicle, including the registration number and company logo is very helpful.

“If you manage to get a photo with your phone of the vehicle with a clear registration plate we’ll have the best possible chance of making these people pay for their crime against the community,” Ms Colechin said.

In the past twelve months Council has spent nearly \$8,000 removing illegally dumped mulch from public land. Removal of mulch dumped on private property ultimately becomes the responsibility of the landowner.