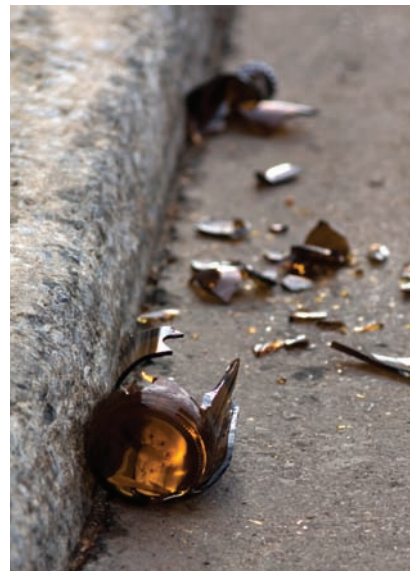


# Western Australian

## NEW LITTER LAWS AND CHANGES

### RESOURCE KIT AND USER GUIDELINES



Department of Environment and Conservation  
Waste Authority



WA

## Background and objectives

Western Australian Parliament passed the amendments to the *Litter Act 1979 (Litter Act)* on 23 August 2012. *The Litter Amendment Bill 2011 (Bill)* amends the Litter Act to:

- increase the maximum penalties for littering offences to \$5000 for individuals and \$10,000 for corporations, or in the case of offences against the litter regulations, \$5000 for both individuals and corporations.
- increase the maximum modified penalty which can be set by the regulations for infringement notices to \$2000.
- in cases of littering from vehicles, to deem the person responsible for the vehicle (as defined in the *Road Traffic Act 1974*) to have committed the offence where neither the litterer nor the driver of the vehicle can be identified.

Under the new litter laws, penalties have increased and authorised officers can issue penalties for a greater range of offences. The new Bill enables amendments to Litter Regulations 1981 which include:

- increase in the infringement penalty for cigarette butt littering from \$75 to \$200.
- \$500 infringement penalty for bodies corporate in respect of the majority of littering offences.
- introduction of specified categories of litter which create a public risk and which attract an infringement penalty of \$500 for individuals and \$2000 for bodies corporate.
  - Litter that creates a public risk includes but is not limited to: animal carcass or body part (other than as cooked food), pill, capsule or tablets, container (empty or not) labelled as toxic or poisonous, unexploded fireworks, motor vehicle body or parts, refrigerators or fridges with doors attached, lit cigarettes, syringes, tyres and batteries. See a full list and complete details at Appendix 1.

The new laws came into effect on 11 January 2013.

Keep Australia Beautiful WA (KABWA) has developed this resource kit to update councils, governments and stakeholders on changes to the litter laws and to support agencies to communicate the new litter laws to the community and key stakeholders.

# NEW LITTER LAWS AND CHANGES

These guidelines provide information on how councils and stakeholders can use the material in the resource kit.

The downloadable resources include:

- posters
- fact sheet
- advertisements
- sample media release
- newsletter article
- bin sticker template

For more information, please contact KABWA  
**P:** 08 6467 5122  
**E:** [kabc@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:kabc@dec.wa.gov.au)  
**W:** [www.kabc.wa.gov.au](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au)



## Guidelines for use of resource material

### Posters

Four posters have been developed to communicate the new litter laws and changes in a variety of ways and themes.

1. Now a \$200 fine/No butts about it — focuses on butt littering from vehicles.
2. Now a \$200 fine/No butts about it — focuses on butt littering outside buildings.
3. Cigarette butts can cause fires/No butts about it — focuses on cigarette butts and fire risk.
4. Now a \$500 fine/Clean up your act — focuses on litter that creates a public risk.

Each year in Australia almost 50 per cent of littered items are cigarette butts. In Western Australia, of the more than 3500 litter infringements sent out annually via the KABWA Litter Report Scheme, 90 per cent are for cigarette butt littering. Because of these facts, the posters have a strong emphasis on cigarette butts.

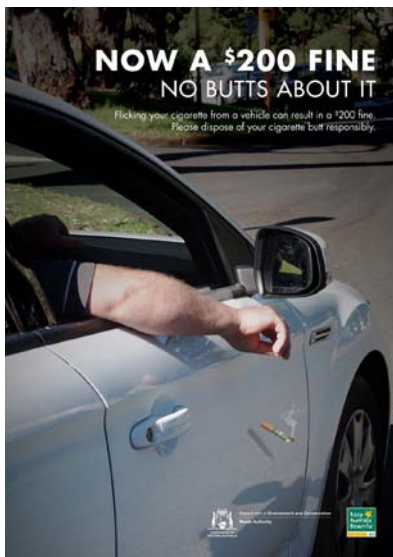
The posters are available for download from the KABWA website [www.kabc.wa.gov.au](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au) and are in sizes, A4 and A3. They are also formatted ready for professional printing — meaning they have bleed and crop marks on the artwork as well as in pdf files for people wishing to print from an office printer.



## Adding a logo

The posters have been designed using Adobe InDesign. The posters can be modified by a graphic designer to include a local government logo. Please contact KABWA to access the InDesign working files on [kabc@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:kabc@dec.wa.gov.au)

Figure 1. Posters to promote new litter penalties.



[Download here](#)

## Fact sheets

The **Western Australian Litter Penalties** fact sheet provides information specifically on new and updated litter fines and how these changes will affect the public. This fact sheet and others that provide information on a range of topics relevant to litter prevention and enforcement are available for download from the KABWA website [www.kabc.wa.gov.au](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au). Topics include:

- bill posting
- building sites
- charity bins
- cigarette butts
- dog poo
- how long does litter take to break down?
- illegal dumping
- unsecured loads
- plastic bags
- roadside litter
- I can do that!

The facts sheets are also available in a format for professional printing. Please email [kabc@dec.wa.gov.au](mailto:kabc@dec.wa.gov.au) to request these files.

## Advertisements

Three display advertisements have been designed for use by councils. All advertisements share the same messages and focus on common littering behavior of littering cigarette butts and littering from cars. They also highlight the new fine of littering that creates public risk.

The advertisements come in two sizes: 50mm x 71mm (5cm x 2 column) landscape view and 100mm x 71mm (10 cm X 2 column) portrait view (in two styles). The size of the advertisements matches the Western Australian Community Newspapers specifications.

The advertisements are supplied as high-resolution pdf files with space provided to include a local government logo. Councils can only alter the advertisements by adding their logo, the text must not be altered.

# NEW LITTER LAWS AND CHANGES

Figure 2 shows examples of the litter advertisements available and the location provided for council logos.

[Download here](#)

Figure 2. Advertisements to promote new litter fines.

Size 71mm x 100mm



Size 71mm x 50mm



Your logo here

## Sample media release

The sample media release is a template for use by local government. It is not a KABWA publication and must not include the KABWA logo. Councils can change any part of the sample as it is designed as a guide only.

[Download here](#)

### Newsletter article

The sample newsletter article describes the changes in litter laws in simple language and is a useful tool for communicating changes to the public. The newsletter article can be modified to include locally relevant details and is meant as a guide only.

[Download here](#)

### Bin template

Keep Australia Beautiful WA has developed this bin sticker to promote responsible cigarette butt disposal. It is 190mm x 190mm and has a space provided for councils to add their logo before printing.

[Download here](#)



Your logo here

A range of additional resources are available from the KABWA website to assist in promoting the anti-litter message to the community. These include car litter bags, bumper stickers, reusable shopping bags and signage templates.

For more information, visit [www.kabc.wa.gov.au](http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au).

*KABWA acknowledges the Queensland Government Environmental Protection Agency in the development of materials for this resource.*



**Appendix 1**

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN LITTER PENALTIES**

<b>Offence</b>	<b>Penalty - individual</b>	<b>Penalty - corporation</b>
Littering – cigarette butt	<b>\$200</b>	N/A
Littering – general	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$500</b>
Breaking glass, metal or earthenware	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
Bill posting	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$500</b>
Bill posting on a vehicle	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$500</b>
Depositing domestic or commercial waste in a public litter receptacle.	<b>\$200</b>	<b>\$500</b>
Transporting load inadequately secured	<b>\$200</b>	N/A
<b>Littering that creates a public risk</b>		
Animal carcass or animal body part (other than as cooked food)	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
Broken glass, sharp-edged metal or earthenware	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
Pill, capsule or tablet, or a blister pack that contains or is designed to contain a pill, capsule or tablet	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
Container (whether empty or not) that is labelled or marked with any of the following: POISON DANGEROUS POISON CONTROLLED DRUG KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARD BURNS SKIN AND THROAT	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>

# NEW LITTER LAWS AND CHANGES

Offence	Penalty - individual	Penalty - corporation
<b>Container (whether empty or not) that is labelled or marked with any of the following:</b> TOXIC TOXIC GAS RADIATION BIO-HAZARD EXPLOSIVES CHEMICAL HAZARD FLAMMABLE GAS FLAMMABLE LIQUID FLAMMABLE SOLID OXIDISING GAS INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCE CORROSIVE DANGEROUS GOODS	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
<b>Unexploded firework or flare or live ammunition</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
<b>Motor vehicle body or motor vehicle part</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
<b>Refrigerator or freezer with door attached</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
<b>Lit cigarette</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
<b>Hypodermic needle or syringe, whether or not attached to each other attached</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
<b>Tyre</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>
<b>Battery</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$2000</b>



Department of Environment and Conservation  
Waste Authority

