



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 13 September, 2016

Spy cameras to combat illegal dumping

Covert surveillance cameras will be deployed to combat the illegal dumping of waste in a landmark partnership between the City of Marion and the Environment Protection Authority.

Up to 10 EPA cameras are set to be installed for the first time at known hot spots in a bid to reduce the more than 1100 incidences a year of illegally dumped rubbish in Marion.

The EPA will supply and install the cameras and investigate to prosecute anyone filmed dumping rubbish illegally.

Over the next year, the cameras will be rotated to undisclosed locations throughout the city and will complement existing enforcement activities.

People caught illegally dumping risk fines of up to \$120,000 or two years' imprisonment.

Announcing the partnership, Mayor Kris Hanna said covert surveillance will help reduce illegally dumped rubbish.

"More than 62 tonnes of rubbish is dumped illegally in Marion each year. Removal costs the community about \$100,000 per annum," Mr Hanna said.

"Rubbish is an eyesore and a potential health hazard and our community have had enough of it being dumped in their streets and reserves.

"We are partnering with the EPA to install surveillance cameras to detect illegal dumpers and, hopefully, deter those who may be contemplating dumping their junk."

EPA Manager Investigations and Tactical Support Stephen Barry said the EPA's illegal dumping unit had expanded its reach through a program to help councils use covert surveillance methods in areas identified as waste dumping hotspots.

"With the EPA and Marion council working in partnership to increase surveillance, the message to illegal dumpers is simple: you will be caught," Mr Barry said.

"Most people who illegally dump rubbish think it is a better option than paying a reasonable charge at a waste management facility or landfill to dispose of it correctly but they risk facing a maximum penalty of \$120,000 or two years' imprisonment."

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The camera equipment will include number plate recognition technology that will store visual data in an external source, so even if the camera is found and destroyed, the evidence won't be lost.

Mr Hanna said furniture, cardboard, televisions, timber, mattresses, and pot plants were among the common items found discarded.

Illegal dumping in Marion peaked in 2012/13 when 1600 incidents involving 92 tonnes were reported and cost \$163,700 to remove.

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