

**Submission  
No 1**

# **MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE ON PRIVATE LANDS**

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**Date Received:** 26/06/2013

20 June 2013-06-20

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Director Committees  
Committee on Environment and Regulation  
Parliament House  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

**Re: Management and Disposal of Waste on Private Land**

Most citizens, at one time or another, have to contend with vacant land or buildings nearby.

- a. Often such properties cause safety risks as rubbish piles up attracting vermin, high grass and dead plants causing a fire hazard, as well as other health problems and terrible smells.
- b. The homeless seek shelter in the derelict buildings causing danger to themselves and others from falling masonry, fire etc.  
Such properties may become a hub for illegal and antisocial activities.  
There seems to be a lack of suitable laws or bylaws to cover the situation.
- c. Citizens complain to their Local Council but there is often no response or inadequate response.
- d. Perhaps reasonable rates should be charged for vacant properties. This might discourage owners leaving them vacant for long periods and assist with costs by Councils for cleaning up and waste disposal.
- e. Vacant properties do attract illegal dumping. Taking items to the tip is very expensive and less affluent people cannot afford it so they often take a short cut by dumping.
- f. Properties which are not vacant but in a unacceptable state require suitable legislation which would allow the Council to clean up and recoup the cost from the owner. This may involve the input from social workers etc. Bylaws need to be clarified.

Conclusion : As a citizen I would like to see this committee attract media attention and work to gain a greater coverage so that there will be more responses.

Local Councils need to have the powers and policies required to clean up the mess and have the property owners pay. Every suburb/town has the right to have a clean environment.

Thank you for opportunity to submit a response.

Yours faithfully

Ann Brennan