

**Submission  
No 30**

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

**Organisation:** Shellharbour City Council  
**Name:** Mr Greg Porter  
**Position:** Team Leader - Building  
**Date Received:** 30/07/2013

**From:** [Greg Porter](#)  
**To:** [environmentregulation](#)  
**Cc:** [Carey McIntyre](#)  
**Subject:** Management and Disposal of Waste on Private land (Inquiry) File Ref: D13/16852  
**Date:** Tuesday, 30 July 2013 3:42:12 PM

---

The Committee Manager  
Committee on Environment and Regulation,

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find the following information in order to address the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry from Shellharbour City Councils perspective;

**a) The health and safety risks posed by inadequate management and disposal of waste, overgrowth and excess vegetation, pests and odour;**

The Health and safety risks posed include; contaminated land, destruction of environmentally sensitive areas and eco systems and potential fire hazards that encourage the unlawful burning of waste causing air pollution.

Conditions arising from poor management of waste also provide a harbourage for disease carry pests and vermin.

**b) The effectiveness of current regulatory arrangements and powers to compel clean ups on private land and manage derelict buildings;**

The current legislation under POEO Act and the LGA Act is adequate to compel clean ups.

It has been our experience that the regulatory arrangements regarding derelict buildings is loose and could well be tightened allowing specific controls and actions to be considered in order to take specific regulatory action rather than relying on subjective legislation such as "unsightly" or "not safe".

**c) The adequacy of inspection and enforcement procedures, including relevant sanctions and powers to recover costs;**

Recovering costs is an issue that requires some improvement. Unless the customer is a rate payer, it becomes costly and sometimes impossible or impractical to recover costs. Even as a rate payer, Council usually waits for the outstanding rates to be paid.

**d) Possible measures to improve the management of waste on private land;**

Education.

More intervention or powers given to agencies for Mental Health or the like. Many waste on private land issues arise from "hoarders". Often times regulatory action is dealing with the results and not the cause of the issue.

**e) The extent of illegal dumping and the impact on local government authorities of requirements to remove dumped waste;**

Illegal dumping is a major problem in our LGA. The impact on finances and resources used for cleaning up illegal dump sites is excessive. Our Council does not voluntarily clean up waste on private land, this is left to the land owner. However on public land Councils required to clean up unless an offender has been located in a timely manner and they are issued with a clean up notice.

**f) Any other related matter.**

Nil

Thank you for your consideration of our submission.  
regards

Greg Porter  
Team leader - Building  
Shellharbour City Council