

## Hon Ian Hunter MLC

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation

Saturday, 1 July 2017

### **Councils given more power to resolve local issues of noise, smoke, litter**

Councils will have more powers to resolve local nuisance issues such as noise, smoke and dust as the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016* comes in to full effect today.

The new laws make councils responsible for investigating and dealing with local nuisance, and provide a consistent framework across the state.

The reforms have been supported by the Local Government Association and councils across the state. To help councils transition, the EPA has provided training for staff on the litter and nuisance components of the Act.

### **Background**

The littering components of the legislation became operational from 1 February 2017 and the local nuisance provisions will come into effect from today.

More serious offences will continue to be referred to the EPA.

### **Quotes attributable to Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation Ian Hunter**

The Act contains important reforms that will considerably improve the way local nuisance complaints are dealt with, and reduce the prevalence of litter and illegal dumping.

This is an excellent example of the new collaborative approach between local government and the EPA that this legislation promotes.

The EPA will continue to provide ongoing support to councils through sharing expertise, use of modern tactical surveillance methods, and evidence collection.

The Act also includes a range of reforms such as the public litter reporting program, *Dob in a Litterer*, which has recorded successful results through the development of online reporting tools. The *Dob in a Litterer* app has been downloaded 2062 times and there are 512 registered users on the *Dob in a Litterer* website.

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