



4 May 2017

Media Statement

## Public help sought on dumped fuel

Pollution response specialists from the Department of Environment Regulation (DER) this week responded to a report of four 1000 litre fuel containers—dumped in bushland in suburban Rockingham.

Officers from the Department's Pollution Response team took action on site to stop further leaks from the containers and collect evidence.

DER's Executive Director Compliance and Enforcement Stuart Cowie said a mixture of oil and fuel was in the containers—possibly from a commercial automotive business.

“At this stage, we believe several hundred litres of the substance has leaked into the ground from the containers, which it appears were dumped in bushland off Chesterfield Road between 15 and 22 April,” he said.

“When liquids like these are dumped, they can soak into the soil and contaminate groundwater.”

“We are now working to appropriately dispose of the containers, with specialist contractors excavating and removing all impacted soil.”

Mr Cowie said investigators from the Department's Illegal Dumping Program—which conducts around 200 investigations annually—were seeking witnesses to help identify those responsible for the dumping.

“The investigation will determine whether any environmental harm was caused and attempt to identify those responsible,” he said.

“I urge anyone who has any information regarding this or other illegal dumping incidences to contact DER's 24-hour Pollution Watch Hotline on 1300 784 782 or [pollutionwatch@der.wa.gov.au](mailto:pollutionwatch@der.wa.gov.au).”



**DER at work onsite**

Media contact:

[media@der.wa.gov.au](mailto:media@der.wa.gov.au)

Tel:

0437 228 870