



**4 April 2017**

***Media Statement***

## **Serial dumper fined \$40,000**

The State's environmental regulator has taken action against another illegal dumper, with a 46-year-old South Perth man fined \$40,000 in Perth Magistrates Court today.

The Department of Environment Regulation (DER) launched the prosecution against Jacek Antonio Kotnowski, who offloaded truckloads of property refurbishment waste four times in eight months.

The action was instigated after DER Investigators were supplied with photographic and video evidence capturing the brazen incidents.

The first incident occurred on 31 July 2014, when Police Officers alleged the white Isuzu tip truck Mr Kotnowski was driving had dumped the contents of the rear tray loaded with demolition waste onto the driveway of a vacant property on Berwick Street in Victoria Park.

The remaining three incidents occurred across a two-week period in March 2015. On 19 March 2015, Mr Kotnowski dumped a truck load of waste including old roofing timber and polystyrene onto the road verge on Rason Street in Wembley, as well as another truck load of waste onto a private property on Mill Point Road in South Perth.

On 28 March 2015, Mr Kotnowski was involved in dumping old roofing tiles onto a construction site at Armagh Street in Victoria Park.

Mr Kotnowski was found guilty of four separate offences and fined \$10,000 for each offence. He was also ordered by the court to pay clean-up costs of \$1,114 and court costs of \$1,515.

In sentencing, Magistrate Steven Heath stated that the rights of others had been ignored by the offender to avoid costs of his business.

He said there was a need for a substantial penalty to provide a deterrent.

DER Senior Manager Investigations for the Illegal Dumping Program, Matt Warnock, said the successful prosecution should send a strong message to 'would-be' dumpers.

"In this particular case, it's inexcusable that a person undertaking home refurbishments has decided to illegally dump the waste – a practice that can impact people's health and

the environment and impose significant clean-up costs on rate payers and others,” he said.

While clean-up costs could not be determined for the Berwick Street or Mill Point Road offences, a private builder footed a \$1,000 clean up bill for the Armagh Street property, and the Rason Street site required \$1,114 of waste removals by the Town of Cambridge.

The Department conducts around 220 illegal dumping investigations annually and monitors covert surveillance across the State.

“I thank the WA Police, Town of Cambridge and the various community members who helped our Department effectively investigate these incidents,” Mr Warnock said.

Minister for Environment Stephen Dawson said he was disappointed illegal dumping continued to occur in Western Australia.

“We live in such a beautiful State like Western Australia yet we are still seeing illegal dumping occur,” Mr Dawson said.

“I urge anyone who witnesses illegal dumping in the future to report it to DER’s 24-hour Pollution Watch Hotline on 1300 784 782, so this behaviour can be stamped out.”

[Illegal dumping](#) can also be reported via [pollutionwatch@der.wa.gov.au](mailto:pollutionwatch@der.wa.gov.au)



31 July 2014 Victoria Park incident



19 March 2015 Wembley incident

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