



Gabrielle Upton
Minister for the Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

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DIGITAL EYE ON DUMPING

The NSW Environment Protection Authority has fitted GPS trackers to vehicles suspected of illegally dumping construction and demolition waste including asbestos, Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton said today.

These vehicles were fitted with the trackers after a covert EPA investigation into illegal dumping incidents last year. The GPS trackers have been fitted to the vehicles, with the owners' knowledge, as part of a 12 month trial. It is illegal for the drivers or vehicle owners to remove or tamper with the trackers.

"The GPS system allows the EPA to track the vehicles' movements, alerting them if they travel near known illegal dumping hotspots," Ms Upton said.

"The NSW Government is serious about cracking down on illegal dumpers – trial results show the trackers fitted to vehicles has deterred illegal activity and won't just deter those being watched but others who think they can get away with dumping on our communities and environment."

The EPA will consider using tracking devices to monitor other vehicles accused of transporting or dumping waste unlawfully once the trial is complete.

The NSW Government introduced tougher laws in 2014, including the power to install trackers onto vehicles and the ability to seize vehicles used in dumping offences.

The EPA can issue on the spot fines of up to \$15,000 for corporations and \$7500 for individuals. Courts can impose a maximum penalty of \$1 million and / or 7 years imprisonment to individuals, or both, for an offence that is committed wilfully.

Illegal dumping incidents can be reported by calling the Environment Line on 131 555 or through the RIDonline reporting portal at ridonline.epa.nsw.gov.au.