



2 March 2017

Media Statement

Public help sought for dangerous dumped drums

The Department of Environment Regulation (DER) is seeking help from the community to identify the person responsible for dumping drums of chemicals in Malaga last week.

Two drums of highly flammable liquid solvents were dumped in Mulgul Way in Malaga on or about Tuesday 28 February 2017.

DER's Senior Manager Pollution Response, Ken Raine said that it was particularly concerning that the two drums were dumped right next to a high voltage electrical cabinet and a telecommunication pit.

"If the drums had leaked there could have been a fire or explosion," he said.

"Solvents like those in the drums can easily soak through the soil and contaminate groundwater."

The drums have since been removed and disposed of by specialist HAZMAT (hazardous materials) contractors.

DER is investigating the illegal dumping under the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*.

Anyone with information that could help identify the offenders should contact DER's Pollution Watch Hotline 1300 784 782 (24 hours) or by email at pollutionwatch@der.wa.gov.au.

People living in the City of Swan can also report illegally dumped waste on the council's website by going to www.swan.wa.gov.au and filling out an online report with all relevant details, including location and type of waste. Photographs can also be attached to the online report.

City of Swan Mayor Mick Wainwright said the council had recorded a 13.4% increase in reports of illegal dumping in its municipality since the introduction of its Reduce Illegal Dumping (RID) project in August last year.

"Not only is illegal dumping of this kind dangerous for the environment, it is dangerous for the community and we are working with DER and other organisations to try to stop illegal dumping in its tracks," Mr Wainwright said.

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