



Media Statement

15 May 2018

Help needed to catch Whiteman Park chemical dumper

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is calling for community assistance to identify those responsible for a chemical dumping offence that created risk to water reserved for public drinking needs.

Up to 1,000 litres of odorous, red liquid was found dumped in the groundwater protection area at Whiteman Park on the morning of Saturday 12 May.

After being notified of the incident by WA Police and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the department's Pollution Response Unit (PRU) were dispatched to the scene to prevent impacts to groundwater and collect evidence.

PRU Senior Manager Ken Raine said the dumping on the corner of Marangaroo Drive and Hepburn Avenue was a serious offence with potential to significantly impact groundwater and the environment.

He urged anyone who was near the area at the time to contact the department if they witnessed the offence or had any relevant information to share, including dash cam video.

"We are hoping that someone may have seen a vehicle/s in the area at the time or heard someone talking about this," he said.

"The groundwater in the area where the dumping occurred was less than five metres below the soil surface – so protecting drinking water from contamination was a major priority.

"Samples of the dumped liquid are currently with the ChemCentre for analysis, and a major clean-up to dig out the contaminated soil and protect the groundwater, native animals and the community has been completed.

"Illegal dumping is a criminal offence that can impact people's health and the environment and we are urging anyone with information to contact the department as soon as possible.

"This is the second dumping of a liquid inside a public drinking water source protection area in as many months, and shows a disregard for these very important places that ensure Perth has usable drinking water supplies now and into the future."

Anyone with information or dash cam footage of the area on Saturday morning is asked to contact DWER's Pollution Watch Hotmail on 1300 784 782 or by email at pollutionwatch@dwer.wa.gov.au.



A DWER PRU officer collects samples of the dumped liquid.



Up to of 1,000 litres of odorous, red liquid was dumped at Whiteman Park.

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