



Media Statement

13 June 2018

Help needed to catch Gnangara Pines hazardous chemical dumper

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) is calling for community assistance to identify those responsible for a hazardous chemicals dumping offence that created risk to the community and groundwater in the area.

The hazardous chemicals, including hydrofluoric acid, were found dumped in a groundwater protection area off Warbrook Road in the Gnangara Pine Plantation on the afternoon of Monday 11 June.

DWER officers discovered the chemicals while patrolling the area. DWER's Pollution Response Unit (PRU) was dispatched to the scene to cordon off the area and coordinate clean-up of the waste via a HAZMAT contractor.

PRU Senior Manager Ken Raine said the dumping was a serious offence with potential to significantly impact the community 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 footage.

"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.

"This area is popular with trail bike riders and four wheel drive enthusiasts, so the dangers associated with chemicals of this nature being dumped in a popular area are high.

"The containers located at the dump site indicate that the chemicals could be laboratory reagents.

"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."

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

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