



Media Statement

2 November 2017

Covert camera catches out illegal dumper

A 56 year old man who was caught on covert camera emptying a trailer load of waste in Korung National Park was fined \$5,000 in Midland Magistrates Court on 2 October 2017.

Duncan Edwards Hepple, who did not appear, was convicted and fined \$5,000, as well as costs totalling \$744.35, for dumping the solid waste material – including a fridge, car body parts, furniture and lubricants – in bushland near Canning Mills Road on 20 February 2017.

On 2 March 2017, after being contacted by the former Department of Environment Regulation's Illegal Dumping Program officers (now the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation [DWER]), Mr Hepple returned to the site to remove the dumped waste – an act captured by the same covert camera.

Illegal Dumping Program officers invited Mr Hepple to attend DWER offices on 20 March 2017 to discuss the incident; however, he failed to attend.

DWER Senior Manager Investigations Matt Warnock said the conviction was an example of the effectiveness of covert surveillance in the successful prosecution of illegal dumpers.

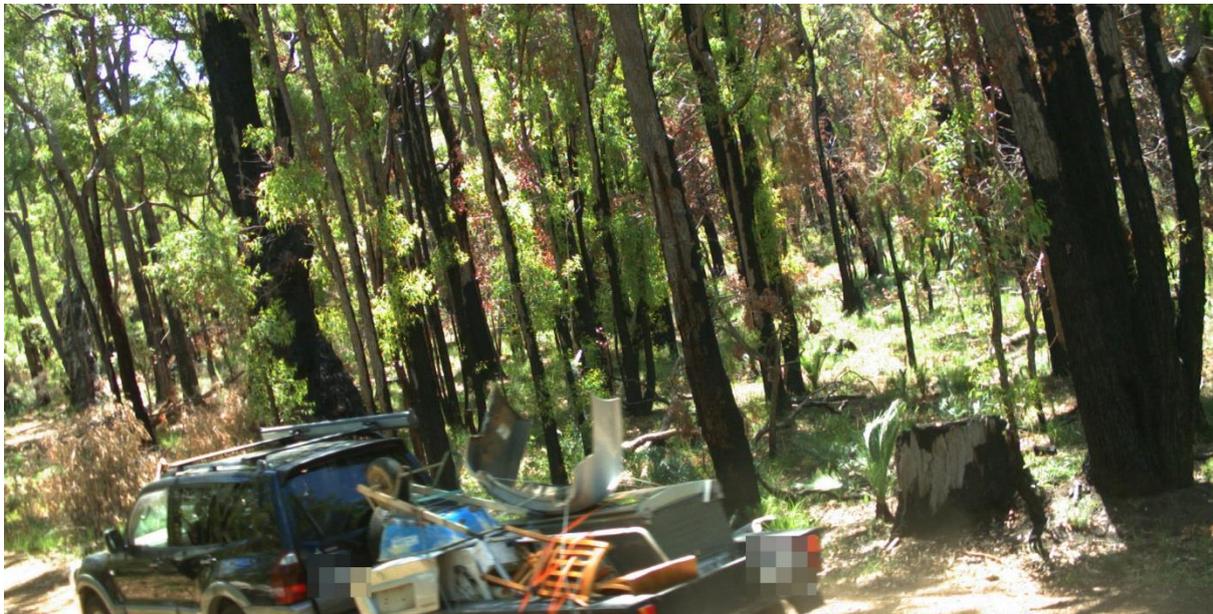
“This offender knew that his actions were wrong when dumping this rubbish, as demonstrated when he later returned to the site to remove his dumped items,” he said.

“Illegal dumping is a serious offence and the Department will continue to take action against those with disregard for the law.”

Illegal dumping can be reported to DWER's 24-hour Pollution Watch Hotline on 1300 784 782 or via email at pollutionwatch@dwer.wa.gov.au.



Mr Hepple was convicted and fined \$5,000 plus costs after illegally dumping solid waste material.



Mr Hepple's dumping activity was caught on covert camera.

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