

# THIS WEEK IN "LITTERLAND"

[www.litterpreventionprogram.com](http://www.litterpreventionprogram.com)

January 25, 2015



Source: EPA Victoria, AU

## BY THE NUMBERS:

**12,859:** number of fines in the past fiscal year in Victoria, AU.  
**\$4,000,000:** value of fines handed out in Victoria over that time.  
**85:** percentage of above fines that involved the littering of cigarette butts.  
**60,000:** number of Victorians signed up to report litterers to the EPA.  
**25:** number of years for Clean Up Australia Day on March 1, 2015.  
**\$200:** cost of fine in AU for a person littering, **900 bucks** if a corporation.  
**\$500:** cost of littering a lit cigarette during a fire ban.

**Australia 'gets it'.** For the first time in New South Wales public reports about littering will be used to issue fines under a new system that will begin March 1. People witnessing roadside littering can use the EPA website portal or the mobile app to file details within 14 days of the occurrence starting February 1. State environment minister Rob Stokes made the announcement Tuesday.

## Times of India backs big contest

India's most widely read English language daily newspaper is running a major campaign on littering. The Great Indian Litterbug blends print, television and social media messaging in an attempt to engage the media conglomerate's 7.5-million subscribers in the national awareness effort to stop littering. Running until February 10, one contest being championed by college students involves creating artistic installations using littered trash with the best to be awarded merchandise from a store called Happily Unmarried. Social media figures prominently, inviting the sharing of pictures and cartoons through Twitter, at #TheGreatIndianLitterbug, Facebook and Whatsapp on 8006371000.

## DID YOU KNOW?

More than 20,000 people a year are reported for littering in Victoria, resulting in 12,800 fines. NSW government workers recorded and fined 2,862 littering motorists, a tally likely to rise as NSW adopts Victoria's online reporting model.

## HEADLINE LITTER GRABBERS (JAN 18 - 25)

Some of what made our News Reel this week  
[litterpreventionprogram.com/news-reel.html](http://litterpreventionprogram.com/news-reel.html)

### Presence of litter lowers property values: study (1/19)

Litter costs a tidy sum in lost real estate values, says a new study from Keep Britain Tidy. Littered areas can lop off anywhere from 2.7 to 11.8 per cent of a property's value, according to the agency's survey of realtors.

### Highest high-rise littering fine ever in Singapore (1/21)

Singapore hurled a record \$14,776 fine at a man for littering cigarettes 34 times from his apartment balcony and refusing to stop. It was one of 2,500 instances of high-rise littering in 2014. Cameras were used to get evidence.

### Bolton dog owners yelp over budget faux pas (1/23)

Pity the pooches and people of Bolton, where the latter are howling over a city budget that has cut the provision of bins for dog waste. Could lead to a messy outcome.

### Freedom of Information yields litter stats

A freedom of information request reveals 4,000 "fly-tipping" cases in Bolton, UK, up 40% over last year.

### Stop, thief! Signs go missing in Kentish (1/22)

Vandals stole three of the newly installed "Don't Be A Tosser" signs in Kentish, AU, blighting the start of a new campaign, which included the erection of eight signs. Under the plan, surveillance cameras are on the way.

**EXTRA!**

### **Litter trial in New Zealand is cleaning up the town**

If first indications stand, a trial to rid downtown Queenstown, NZ of stray litter and garbage may prove to be a permanent winner. Queenstown Lakes District Council is seeing fruit from its effort to re-jig rules and schedules and educate business owners about the new clean front way of doing things. Businesses are required to take cardboard recycling and garbage to 11 strategically located depots at 8 am and 2 pm, no leaving waste outside. That would be viewed as littering warranting a fine of \$100 to \$400. Contractors adjusted their collection schedules to pick up promptly at the designated hour. Councillors visited businesses personally to explain the new policy and gained near-full cooperation. One month into a three-month trial, they say the area is looking much cleaner and they're hopeful.

### **Georgia takes kick at can in Azerbaijan**

Georgia's \$63 fine for littering from cars came into effect Jan. 15 under a new Interior Ministry protocol. The Waste Management Code proffers penalties from \$27 to \$2,632. In a last ditch effort to get a handle on the nation's waste problems, Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili ordered the new law on September 5. Now police patrols, municipalities and environment ministry officers are called on to implement and enforce it.

"This kind of decision is necessary to establish environmental protection habits once and forever in Georgia." PM Irakli Garibashvili

Source: Today.Az/AzerNews

### **Mayor declares Iloilo a smoke-free city for parade**

To keep littering in check for the weeklong Filipino Dinagyang Festival, the mayor of Iloilo made the city a smoke-free zone and promised enforcement on delinquents caught puffing along the parade route and in the Freedom Grandstand. Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog told vendors to have bins or bags for garbage and to keep their kiosks litter-free or risk penalty.

### **Restaurant application required litter control plan**

Opening an eatery in Port Macquarie requires restaurateurs to put litter-fighting plans on the table. A recent proposal from Hungry Jack's to locate in the New South Wales town contains an operational plan to address matters such as anti-social behaviour, surveillance, complaints management and litter management at the planned restaurant and drive-through. The project would create 50 local jobs, the applicant says. Hungry Jack's operates a chain of 300 restaurants nationally across Australia with a presence there for 40 years.

Again, our news canister overflows and it's time to unload with another *Litterland* double issue. We hear the Ontario government will be sinking some serious money into having private contractors clean up litter from 30 km of southern Ontario highway routes upon which dignitaries, prestige athletes and VIPs will travel during the Toronto Pan/Parapan American Games in July of this year. It makes sense to pretty up the scene for the world watching. Ironic, however, that this is the same Ontario, Canada that said it did not have a littering problem when we sought a formal review of the subject in November 2012.



**SOMETHING DIFFERENT**, above, this dress is made from wrapping paper and ribbon.  
Source: avant-geek.