



## PLEASE DO NOT DUMP GARDEN WASTE



From top: Bamboo (*Arundo donax*) resprouting from dumped garden waste, grass sprouting from dumped lawn clippings and dump tree pruning increasing the potential fire fuel load in a bushland reserve. Image Source: Natural Area Holdings Pty Ltd

Dumping of garden waste in the bush creates problems for the environment. It has the potential to introduce weeds, which compete against native plants for water, space, nutrients and light, into local parks and bushland. Do you know that some weeds don't always need seed to colonise a new area, they can establish from discarded rhizomes or tubers (root structures).

Additionally:

- Excessive dumping of lawn clippings and garden pruning's can pose a fire hazard risk if left to dry out.
- The nutrient loading of bushland soil can be increased through the dumping of green waste. In naturally nutrient deficient soils this can result in the outbreaks of weeds.
- Waste such as wiring and plastic bags can cause a direct hazard to local birds and animals
- It creates a mess of our parks and bushland

### What are the legal implications of dumping garden refuse?

Illegal dumping can be prosecuted under the *Western Australian Environmental Protection Act 1986*, with fines reaching a maximum of \$62,500 for individuals and \$120,000 for corporations. Under *the Litter Act 1979*, minor illegal dumping can attract an infringement notice of \$200 or \$1,000 if taken to court. If you see anyone dumping rubbish immediately report them by phoning the Customer Service Centre (08) 9792 7000.

There are many alternatives to dumping garden waste in local bushland. The City of Bunbury provides an organics bin (collected weekly) in addition to two hard waste and two green waste collections each year. A waste disposal facility is also available in Bunbury, located on Stanley Road, Australind. The facility is open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm every day except Christmas Day, New Year's Day and Good Friday. A compost or worm farm can be used to reduced organic waste from households. Visit the City of Bunbury website ([www.bunbury.wa.gov.au](http://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au)) for more information on waste and recycling management in the City of Bunbury.

