



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
**FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015**

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),  
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**  
**DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**ESD No 14**

**ESD No 15**



Asked by Yvette Berry, MLA on 24 June 2014: Minister Corbell, MLA, for the Environment took on notice the following questions:

Ref: Hansard Transcript, Select Committee on Estimates, 24 June 2014, pages 89-90.

What are the number of illegal dumping incidents on private properties?

What is the Government doing about it?

Illegal dumping on private land owned? Or was it just illegal dumping?

Please provide an overview of the cross boarder issue.

**Minister Corbell: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:--**

*What are the number of illegal dumping incidents on private properties?*

In April 2014, Officers from organisations aligned under the ACT-NSW Cross Border Illegal Dumping Action Project participated in an aerial over flight of rural areas in the ACT and NSW. There were 10 sites of interest identified in the ACT which are currently being investigated by the Territory and Municipal Services and the Environment and Planning Directorates.

*What is the Government doing about it?*

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ACT and NSW Governments was entered into in December 2011. The MoU is being jointly progressed by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate and the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet and is reflective of the desire of both governments to work collaboratively on regional matters.

In September 2012 the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the ACT EPA entered into a cross border environment protection protocol. The cross-border protocol brings about numerous benefits for both the ACT and NSW Governments. The protocol facilitates regional collaborative work between NSW and ACT EPAs to improve service delivery and response to environmental incidents; strengthen environmental enforcement and facilitate resource sharing. It also makes arrangements to enable authorised environment protection officers from the ACT and NSW to act across borders in appropriate circumstances.

Under the MOU and Protocol, there is an agreement to address illegal dumping. The agreement recognises that the environment agencies are ideally positioned to develop regional waste strategies to support local councils and public land managers to combat illegal dumping, whether it occurs within the ACT or surrounding NSW. The ACT – NSW Cross Border Illegal Dumping Action Project was launched in April 2014 and is jointly funded between NSW and ACT Government Departments and Councils. The project is funded to operate for three years.

The following organisations are part of the project, the Environment and Planning Directorate through the Environment Protection Authority, Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, Chief Ministers and Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, NSW Environment Protection Authority, NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, Forests NSW, Lands Department (NSW DPI), Yass Council, Palerang Shire Council, Cooma-Monaro Council and Queanbeyan City Council.

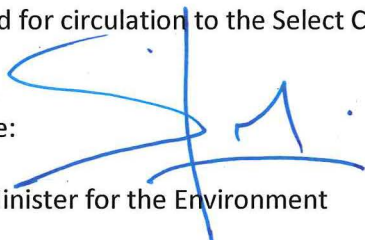
*Please provide an overview of the cross boarder issue.*

Illegal dumping in the ACT and surrounding NSW is an on-going issue requiring attention as a shared problem across jurisdictions. There are known instances of waste operators transporting predominantly construction related waste, generated in the populated areas of Queanbeyan and Canberra, and illegally dumping these wastes in the ACT and NSW.

Dumping usually occurs in isolated rural areas, on public lands in the ACT or one of the four surrounding local government areas in NSW. Analysis of existing information on illegal dumping in the ACT-NSW Cross-Border Region gathered by the NSW EPA indicates the highest amount of illegal dumping activity occurs in the Yass Valley local government area to the north and north-west of the ACT, with some activity also occurring in the eastern and southern Councils of Palerang, Cooma and Queanbeyan.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature:



By the Minister for the Environment

Date: 10.7.14