



## COUNCIL POLICY - draft

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### **P040213      LITTER PREVENTION POLICY**

#### Objective

To seek an improvement in the visual environment within the Shire of Denmark, and specifically our;

- beaches
- roads and streets
- verges and footpaths
- trails
- parks and reserves

by reducing the amount of litter dropped, deposited or thrown on the ground.

This policy can be cited as the '*Denmark – Towards Zero Litter Strategy*'.

Litter not only contributes to the defacement of the environment, but can adversely affect the lifestyles of members of the public and provides a negative image of our towns and community to not only ourselves, but also to visitors and tourists.

This policy relates to the prevention of littering in public places, or areas to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access to with or without payment and the powers available to the Shire of Denmark to tackle the offence of littering and to encourage residents, landowners, community groups, tourists and businesses to assist.

It should be noted that this policy should be read in conjunction with Councils adopted Graffiti Policy P050301.

#### Policy

Throwing or dropping litter, even unintentionally, is an offence according to the ***Litter Act 1979***. Dumping rubbish of any kind on any land not specified as a waste facility is also considered littering and attracts the same penalties under the Litter Act.

The Shire of Denmark endorses;

1. The principles of State Government's adopted 'Litter Prevention Strategy 2006-2009'; and
2. The Western Australian 'Litter Act 1979'.

The Shire of Denmark will ensure that it gazettes appropriate personnel to enforce the Litter Act 1979 and recognises its responsibilities under that Act and will annually determine resources and priorities to allocate to

enforcement and education measures in supporting these two key documents.

In addition, Council will annually during its budget deliberations, the resource implications of participating in the following specific measures;

- Supporting the Denmark Tidy Towns Committee through;
  - Participating in the State's annual Tidy Towns Awards in conjunction with Denmark Tidy Towns Committee.
  - Allocating a Councillor delegate to the Denmark Tidy Towns Committee.
  - Considering the annual funding requests and efforts of the Committee.
- Encouraging the Denmark Chamber of Commerce and individual businesses in general with keeping 'town' footpaths immediately in front of businesses free of litter.
- Utilising road sweepers on an approximately quarterly basis on all kerbed streets and roads within the Denmark townsite.
- Including the task of litter pick up by its Parks and Gardens staff in maintaining public Parks and Gardens.
- Providing and servicing litter receptacles at appropriate places (supported by Delegation D100201).
- Implementing the Local Reserve Strategy.
- Encouraging and reminding Main Roads WA of its obligations with respect to its responsibilities for the following Road verges within the Shire;
  - South Coast Hwy
  - Denmark – Mt Barker Rd.
- Encouraging private citizens (individuals) to do perform regular clean-ups on local and State controlled roads (with Main Roads permission) from time to time.
- Encouraging communality groups and businesses to perform regular clean-ups or adopt roads or parks (adopt a spot programs) and recognise these efforts (of community groups only) by donating \$2 per roadside litter bag (KABC Size: 480mm x 400mm x 800mm) picked up by Council staff.
- Having its Works crew pick up 'collected' litter programmed in accordance with the above clean-ups.
- Covering volunteers for personal accident insurance through Council's volunteer insurance policy (registration and specific approval required).
- Encouraging staff and community groups to nominate in annual recognition programs such as the WA Clean Beach Program.
- Encouraging and supporting signage at coastal locations including popular fishing locations pertaining to users taking their litter with them (ie. Bait bags).
- Encouraging staff and community groups to apply for relevant grants such as the annual Keep Australia Beautiful Council's 'Litter Prevention Grants.
- Supporting signage at appropriate locations warning of the offence of littering.
- Encouraging distribution companies and contractors that distribute unaddressed advertising material to comply with the voluntary

Code of Conduct overseen by the Australian Catalogue Association (ACA).

- Promoting within the community recognised State and National 'clean up' days and events.
- Providing free of charge 'letterbox magnets' for householders to affix to letterboxes should they not wish to receive 'junk mail'
- Providing free of charge car litter bags readily available from the Shire Office.
- Providing appropriate resources for individuals and community groups and businesses organising clean ups such as;
  - protective reflective safety vests
  - large roadside litter bags
  - tips and guidelines
  - banners and signs
  - Council pick up services (of collected rubbish)
  - Personal accident insurance to cover volunteers
  - media statements to promote and report on the event.
- Other activities in keeping with the principles of the Litter Act 1979, Towards Zero Litter and the State's Litter Prevention Strategy (as amended).
- As a matter of policy support the banning of plastic shopping bags.
- As a matter of policy support the introduction of the National Packaging Covenant and Container Deposit Legislation.

Responsibility for implementation

The Director of Planning & Sustainability is responsible for implementing this policy.

