Frequently Asked Questions

Illegal Dumping Clean-up Rebate Program

What is the Illegal Dumping Clean-up Rebate Program?

The $8.5 million Illegal Dumping Clean-up Rebate Program is part of the Victorian Government's response to the negative impact illegal dumping has on our environment and waterways and the significant impact to local council services and community perceptions of safety and community pride.

The program provides financial rebates to eligible public land managers to help cover the costs of cleaning up illegally dumped waste. It aims to reduce the financial burden on councils and land managers and support environment protection efforts.

Who can apply for the rebate?

Eligible applicants include:

- Local government authorities
- Crown land Committees of Management
- Parks Victoria

Who is not eligible to apply?

The following are not eligible:

- Individuals
- Private sector businesses and agencies
- Sole traders
- Educational institutions
- Not for profit organisations
- Unincorporated organisations
- Victorian or other state government agency or body (unless explicitly listed as eligible)
- Incorporated trustees on behalf of a trust
- Individual partners on behalf of a partnership
- Incorporated joint ventures
- Consortia applications with a lead organisation
- Applicants who do not hold an Australian Business Number (ABN).

What activities can be funded?

Eligible costs include:

- Contractor and council costs directly related to the collection, transport, and disposal of illegally dumped waste
- Equipment rental (e.g. skip bins, trailers, bobcats)
- Disposal fees at authorised facilities

How much of the eligible costs can be funded?

Eligible costs can be funded up to the following thresholds:

- Local government authorities and Crown land Committees of Management can apply for up-to 50% of the costs associated with cleaning up illegally dumped waste.
- Parks Victoria can apply for up-to 25% of the costs associated with cleaning up illegally dumped waste.

What types of illegally dumped waste are not eligible for funding?

Ineligible waste types include:

- Standard hard waste collection services provided by councils
- Litter clean ups and events
- Disaster waste

What costs are excluded from funding?

Ineligible expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Insurances (e.g. public liability, volunteer, motor vehicle)
- Recurrent operational expenses
- Purchase of equipment or vehicles (heavy machinery, motor vehicles, boats)
- Site rehabilitation expenses
- Administrative costs, including project management and wages
- Sampling equipment
- Uniforms
- Cost associated with fleet hire, purchase or maintenance
- Litter clean ups and events
- Standard hard waste collection services provided by councils
- Disaster waste

How much funding is available?

Applicants can claim:

- Up to $250,000 per claim and a maximum of $500,000 per council or Crown land Committees of Management per financial year
- Up to $75,000 per claim and a maximum of $150,000 for Parks Victoria per financial year

What are the conditions for receiving a rebate?

Key conditions include:

- Minimum volume of waste illegally dumped is equal to, or greater than, 2.5m3 or 2.5 tonnes or if a lesser amount, total eligible clean-up cost expenses exceeding $1,000
- The clean-up area is confined to a single dump site in a confined localised area and is not widely dispersed – multiple dumping incidents may be included in the same claim if they are within the same confined area cumulative or hot spot-based claims are allowed
- All avenues for the land manager and/or EPA to trace the perpetrator and recover costs have been exhausted or can be reasonably assumed to be infeasible
- Photographic and documentary evidence must be provided
- Waste must be cleaned up on or after 1 July 2025 and disposed of legally
- Applications must be lodged within 12 months of cleanup activities taking place.

How do I determine what is a single confined location?

The Illegal Dumping Clean-up Rebate Program funds large, expensive individual clean-ups. It does not fund routine services, such as collecting litter and smaller amounts of dumped waste across a wider area.

For example, cleaning up a large pile of illegally dumped waste beside a road may be eligible, but cleaning up multiple dumps along a stretch of road is not eligible.

In general, an eligible dump site might be confined to an area within a 10 m radius or to a single land parcel.

When assessing claims, DEECA will be guided by these principles and the program guidelines.

Are there any ongoing obligations or compliance requirements?

Yes. Applicants must meet the following obligations:

- If new information becomes available after submission that enables recovery of clean-up costs, any rebate payments must be repaid.
- Applications and supporting evidence may be subject to audit, including spot audits.
- Applicants must provide additional information or evidence if requested.

What documents are required with the application?

Applicants must submit:

- A signed statutory declaration – template available at www.environment.vic.gov.au/grants/illegal-dumping-clean-up-rebate.
    - Please note that the Statutory Declaration needs to be signed by an authorised representative of the applicant entity. This must be the CEO or nominated representative (such as a CFO, General Manager, Director or senior leader of the organisation) who is formally delegated or authorised to sign on behalf of the organisation.
    - A single statutory declaration can be provided for multiple applications.
- Photographs of illegally dumped waste showing scale of issue and main type of material and impact
- Photographic evidence of the area after clean-up
- Relevant site inspection reports
- Invoice/Receipts/Remittance showing payment of expense claimed ex GST

Why was there a review of the program guidelines, and what changed?

A commitment was made at the outset of the program to review the guidelines after their first year to ensure that they are efficiently delivering on the program objectives.

DEECA received valuable feedback from a range of stakeholders which informed changes to the program guidelines and application form.

The updated guidelines are intended to enable increased participation in the program, removing limitations on some waste types, primarily municipal solid waste, and clarifying that multiple dumping incidents in the same area may be claimed.

What information will I be asked about the location of the clean-up?

You will be asked to provide a Google Map Link (URL) for the site, as well as address, suburb and postcode.

How do I apply?

Applications must be submitted online via the Grants Online portal at https://deeca.my.site.com/grants/s/. Supporting documents must be attached in acceptable formats (Word, Excel, PDF, JPEG). No hard copy applications will be accepted.

When does the rebate program run?

The rebate program as outlined in the guidelines covers clean-up activities occurring between 1 July 2025 and 30 June 2029, unless declared earlier.

Can a Crown land Committee of Management apply if they are also a not-for-profit organisation?

Yes. Crown land Committees of Management can apply if they are also not -for-profit organisation, providing they meet other eligibility criteria.

How will I be notified?

Applicants will be notified of the outcome back to the email address provided by the applicant in the application form. All decisions are final and are not subject to further review. Unsuccessful applicants may request feedback on their application.

Who can I contact for help?

For assistance, please email: illegal.dumping.rebate@deeca.vic.gov.au.