

What Pollution Can Cost You

Business Pollution Prevention Fact Sheet

Under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, Newcastle City Council and the New South Wales EPA have a wide range of powers to investigate and prevent pollution. In addition there are severe penalties that can be imposed for a variety of offences relating to pollution of the environment. It is your responsibility to know these offences and avoid breaking the law.



The table below shows some of the environmental offences and penalties for pollution.

Penalty		
	Individual	Corporations
Tier 1-Involve wilful or negligent breaches		
Disposing of waste	1 Million and/or 7 years imprisonment for an offence that is committed wilfully or \$500,000 and/or 4 years imprisonment for an offence that is committed negligently	\$5 Million for an offence that is committed wilfully or \$2 Million for an offence that is committed negligently
Causing leaks, spills or escapes of substances		
Tier 2 - Includes unintentional, accidental and non-deliberate breaches		
Polluting waters	\$250,000	\$1 million
Causing air pollution		
Waste dumping		
Causing emissions of noise		
Tier 3- Relates to Tier 2 Offences that can be dealt with by on the spot fines		
Polluting waters	\$4,000	\$8,000
Waste dumping		
Permitting land to be used as a waste facility		
Causing emission of noise	\$750	\$1,500

Did you know?

Management and senior staff can be held personal liable for pollution caused by their companies. That could mean up to \$1 million and/or 7 years gaol for failure to exercise "due diligence" to protect the environment.

If pollution occurs both the occupier of the land and the polluter (employer and employees) may be under a duty to notify the local Council or the EPA. If you fail to do so you could be fined up to \$2 million (corporations) and \$500,000 (Individuals).