



2 November 2011

## **Zero Tolerance To Dangerous Litter**

Dr Mike Nahan, the Member for Riverton, welcomed the State Government's plans to toughen up fines for littering and to introduce a new zero tolerance policy on potentially dangerous littering behavior like discarding cigarette butts.

"Littering is an unacceptable practice. It's an eyesore, it damages our environment and in some cases, results in injuries to people from broken glass or discarded syringes. I believe the State Government's tough new stance will help to bring about behaviour change and encourage people to do the right thing," said Dr Nahan.

"These measures are especially important coming into our hot summer because the Fire and Emergency Services Authority estimates that between 8 and 12% of fires in the past have been started by cigarette butts."

Dr Nahan said the Bill to amend the *Litter Act 1979*, which would soon be introduced into State Parliament, would substantially increase the penalties for littering.

"People who litter cigarette butts will face an on the spot fine of \$200, up from \$75, while anyone successfully prosecuted for general littering could soon face a maximum fine of \$5,000, up from \$1,000," said Dr Nahan.

"The Bill to amend the *Litter Act 1979* also complements the passage of amendments to the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* late last year, which created the offence of unlawful dumping of waste, with a fine of up to \$125,000."

"And Keep Australia Beautiful's litter report program continues to grow with more than 5,000 registered reporters. This shows that Western Australians are fed up with seeing litter all over our State and they are doing something about it by reporting instances of litter whenever they see them."

If you would like to register to become a litter reporter, visit <http://www.kabc.wa.gov.au> or phone 6467 5138 for more information.

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