

Environmental watchdog EPA issues a warning to tyre retailers and mechanics after illegal stockpile of waste tyres found in Lockwood

Dear member

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Victoria has once again issued a warning to tyre retailers and mechanics, urging them to ensure that used tyres are disposed of correctly. This follows investigations conducted on a property south of Bendigo, where an illegal stockpile was discovered containing approximately 10,000 waste tyres, with one pile measuring 40 metres wide, 30 metres long, and up to four meters high.

The property did not have a license or permit to receive, store, dispose of, or process waste tyres, which is in breach of several EPA regulations.

The EPA has reminded tyre retailers and mechanics of their obligations when disposing of waste tyres, emphasising the importance of using legitimate operators who can track their waste loads through the EPA [online waste tracker system](#).

In this instance, the property owner was issued with a court order requiring the removal of the waste tyres. Please note this process can be an extremely expensive exercise. A VACC member has reported a similar event where a total of 300 waste tyres were dumped on their property. It cost them \$1.2 million in cleanup cost, plus many thousands more for lawyers' fees and soil testing. If you have had a similar experience, VACC would like to hear from you.

VACC advises members to exercise caution regarding suspicious and cheap deals offered by waste collectors, particularly as the Department can impose hefty fines if an investigation reveals a business is violating the regulations.

Please reach out if you have any questions or would like to speak to someone about illegal dumping.

John Khoury
Industry Policy Advisor