



Friday 22 March 2010

Media Statement

Dropped butt costs in court

- **Motorist fined for dropping cigarette butt out car window**
- **Successful conviction result of actions by Keep Australia Beautiful litter reporter**

A Perth litter reporter has helped convict a motorist who flicked a cigarette butt out his car window.

Michael Nathan Borg (36) of Noranda was this week fined \$200 and ordered to pay \$800 in costs by Deputy Chief Magistrate Elizabeth Woods in the Perth Magistrates Court.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA (KABC) Chairman Michael Aspinall said the successful conviction was the direct result of KABC's litter reporter scheme.

The litter reporter witnessed the defendant throwing his cigarette butt out the car window as he drove along Grand Promenade in Dianella on 23 January 2018.

KABC issued Borg with a \$200 fine which he challenged in court. In addition to the litter reporter's evidence, two further witnesses gave evidence in court.

Under the *Litter Act 1979*, anyone incorrectly disposing of a cigarette butt can be fined \$200. Flicking cigarettes from a vehicle or stubbing out and leaving butts in public places can all incur a fine. If it can be proved that the butt was lit when dropped, a \$500 fine may apply.

KABC has 13,910 registered litter reporters in WA and has issued 1112 infringements since 1 July last year.

Information on how to become a litter reporter is available on KABC's [website](#) or download the smartphone [Litter Reporter App](#) to report littering from vehicles.

Comments attributed to KABC Chairman Michael Aspinall:

"Smokers who throw their cigarette butts on the ground or out car windows are littering and need to be held to account for their behaviour.

"The latest National Litter Index figures confirm that cigarette butts continue to be the most littered item across Australia.

"I applaud this court outcome and the actions of the KABC litter reporter and encourage Western Australians to get involved in this scheme—become a litter reporter today.

"The fine and court costs for this conviction send a message to smokers—do the right thing with your cigarette butts.

"Make sure they are out and put them in a bin or you will be prosecuted."

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