

Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016

Factsheet 24 – Abandoned Shopping Trolleys

Discarded and abandoned shopping trolleys are a nuisance to the community, councils and can cause environmental damage. Once abandoned, they can create a public safety issue, and impact negatively on local amenity.

Are shopping trolleys a litter item under the Act?

Under the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016* (the Act), litter can be any object disposed of by a person, either onto land or into any waters whether by a pedestrian, from a vehicle, or from a premises.

Shopping trolleys that are discarded or abandoned away from their originating retail precinct are a form of litter, and, because of their size, they are a particularly visible form of litter.

The Act introduces specific classes for certain types of litter. Discarded or abandoned shopping trolleys fall within the *general litter* class as described below:

General litter

Any solid or liquid domestic or commercial waste including, but not limited to, chewing gum, cigarettes or cigarette butts, food, beverage containers, packaging, furniture, green waste, personal items such as clothing and footwear, demolition material, building or construction material, vehicles or vehicle parts, farm or agricultural machinery or equipment, dead or diseased animals.

Are there schemes in place to report discarded and abandoned shopping trolleys?

Councils are encouraged to contact the relevant retailer directly to report an abandoned shopping trolley. Some businesses have established dedicated collection services for abandoned shopping trolleys. Woolworths and Wesfarmers (Coles) owned businesses have dedicated systems in place for reporting abandoned trolleys. Most other major grocery retailers and shopping centre precincts operate on an ad-hoc basis and are generally reliant upon reports lodged by nearby residents.

Abandoned shopping trolley collection schemes

<i>Retailer / Shopping Precinct</i>	<i>Collection Service Name</i>	<i>Reporting Options</i>
Big W Woolworths Dan Murphy	Trolley Tracker	Ph. 1800 641 497 (7 days, 8am-6pm AEST) http://trolleytracker.com.au/Report Smartphone 'Trolley Tracker' app for iOS and Android Note: Trolley Tracker has special dedicated programs to assist councils with trolley issues and can also provide councils with educational materials. Council reporting is confirmed via email from Trolley Tracker.
Coles Kmart Target Bunnings Officeworks 1st Choice Liquor	Coles Abandoned Trolleys (Trolley Collect)	Ph. 1800 TROLLEY (1800 876 553) https://www.coles.com.au/customer-service/abandoned-trolley Smartphone <i>Trolley Collect</i> app for iOS and Android
ALDI	No specific process	Telephone primary ALDI number 132 534 and select option 2 to report a discarded trolley
Costco	No specific process	Telephone primary Costco number 8360 3700 and verbally lodge report. Trolleys are generally collected within 24 hrs. Collection is generally limited to 10 km radius.
Foodland	No specific process	Trolley collection is reliant upon consumers calling the nearest Foodland retail outlet or Foodland head office and making a verbal report.
Scentre Retail Precincts (Westfield Centres)	No specific process	Trolley collection is reliant upon consumers reporting a trolley location to shopping centre management which passes the details to the retail owner of the trolley. Reports may also be lodged directly with the retailer.
RetPro Retail Precincts	No specific process	Trolley collection is generally undertaken by the major grocers (Woolworth and Coles) within the shopping precincts.
Vicinity Retail Precincts	No specific process	Trolley collection is generally undertaken by the major grocers (Woolworth and Coles) within the shopping precincts.

What are the impacts of discarded and abandoned shopping trolleys?

Discarded and abandoned shopping trolleys represent a highly visible form of litter with the potential to:

- be hazardous to people by obstructing roads or pedestrian walkways
- end up in waterways
- impact negatively on the amenity of an area
- present clean-up costs for the community and councils

What are the penalties for littering (discarding or abandoning) a shopping trolley?

It is an offence under the Act to dispose of litter either on to land or into any waters and there are significant penalties where this occurs, depending upon the type and amount of litter that was disposed. The Act stands to reinforce that we all have a responsibility to ensure that deliberate littering does not occur and in situations where it may unintentionally occur, we should take all reasonable steps to try and retrieve the litter. The penalty for littering is:

- Maximum penalty: \$5,000
- Expiation fee: \$210

Authorised Officers can also request a litterer to remove litter and dispose of it correctly. It is a further offence for failure to comply with this request.

A council can also issue a Litter Abatement Notice to direct specified activities relating to the management of shopping trolleys. See Factsheet 15 (or section 30 of the Act) for further information about Abatement Notices.

More information

This fact sheet is one of a range designed to increase your awareness and understanding of the requirements of the *Local Nuisance and Litter Control Act 2016*. Please see other fact sheets for further information about the Act.

Disclaimer

This publication is a guide only and will not necessarily provide adequate information relevant to every situation. Whilst it seeks to explain your possible obligations in a helpful and accessible way, it is likely that some detail may not be captured. It is important, therefore, that where necessary you make your own determination as to whether you should seek legal advice.