

\$12M

PETTY

FINES

SPREE

Scrooge councils clean up

By JUSTIN VALLEJO and KELVIN BISSETT

LOCAL councils have gone on a \$12 million fines spree targeting frivolous offences including overuse of car horns, fishing off bridges and placing pot plants on footpaths.

The Daily Telegraph can reveal council rangers are expanding beyond parking to chase fines revenue for often trivial reasons, issuing 38,728 infringements other than vehicle offences.

Pet owners are the most common target across NSW, with 6339 fines being issued for not having a dog under "effective

control" as well as another 4247 fines for not having a dog registered.

Cat owners didn't miss out, with five fined because their animal was not wearing identification.

Office of State Revenue figures obtained under Freedom of Information show fines have been issued for offences from non-complying developments through to noise, pollution, water breaches, weed control, fire safety, illegal fishing and camping on public land.

In total, councils issued fines worth \$12,676,327 in 2006-07 for matters separate to the \$126 million worth of fines they

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