

# PARKING FINE SWINDLE

**Vikki Campion**  
Urban Affairs Reporter

hit 32 — more than double the number six years ago. Figures obtained under Freedom of Information reveal the highest number of fines were issued to drivers over-staying metered time, earning local authorities more than \$39 million.

CASH-strapped councils are boosting their coffers by targeting motorists — last year raking in more than \$139 million in parking fines.

The number of councils now gouging more than \$1 million a year in penalties has

## Fine time costs drivers \$139m

exclusive

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COUNCIL rangers stung motorists with \$139 million worth of parking fines last year with overstaying metered time limits and offences in school zones the biggest cash cows.

Six years ago local government fine revenue was \$59 million.

Figures obtained under Freedom of Information reveal 106 councils across NSW boosted their coffers substantially last year, with rangers most active in the CBD, Parramatta and North Sydney.

The three business hubs raked in more than \$55 million in fines between them, with Byron Bay, Waverley, Manly and Sutherland collecting \$17 million.

The number of councils earning more than \$1 million a year in fines has hit 32 — more than double the number six years ago.

The figures reveal suburban Sydney council rangers issue the most fines with Ryde Council topping the state with a 1047 per cent growth in fine revenue.

Ryde last year issued more than \$3 million in fines, followed closely by Fairfield also with more than \$3 million in tickets. Sutherland issued \$3.6 million in penalties, followed by Burwood with \$2.7 million and Kogarah with \$2 million.

In regional NSW, Wollongong Council netted the biggest fine haul with \$1.6 million, followed by Byron Bay with \$1.3 million.

Overstaying a metered limit generated more than \$56.8 million with 750,000 motorists booked.

Nearly 30,000 drivers were booked near school zones, while 14,598 motorists were caught parking in disability spaces without a permit.

More than 1520 were caught parking on pedestrian crossings, 1630 parking in a way that obstructs traffic, vehicles and pedestrians, 377 for parking on a children's crossing, five for failing to comply with vehicle movement direction and one for stopping in a safety zone.

A City of Sydney spokeswoman said the 288 per cent increase in fines was because the city had grown. She said the council only received a third of the ticket value.

Pedestrian Council of Australia chairman Harold Scruby accused councils of only caring about making a quick buck.

Editorial page 22



Council	Value of fines issued in 2002/03	Value of fines issued in 2008/09
Ashfield	\$433,105	\$1,042,821
Auburn	\$429,990	\$1,454,544
Bankstown	\$966,737	\$2,149,879
Blacktown	\$801,476	\$1,835,125
Botany	\$251,036	\$305,050
Burwood	\$378,874	\$2,739,530
Camden	\$10,913	\$52,326
Campbelltown	\$188,857	\$610,820
Canada Bay	\$192,837	\$1,011,447
Canterbury	\$1,409,511	\$1,064,643
Fairfield	\$1,814,881	\$3,055,556
The Hills	\$188,896	\$929,657
Holroyd	\$884,388	\$648,369
Hornsby	\$541,580	\$1,288,751
Hunters Hill	\$19,461	\$154,143
Hurstville	\$700,933	\$2,094,255
Lane Cove	\$670,976	\$1,010,826
Leichhardt	\$2,933,425	\$3,077,451
Liverpool	\$1,579,289	\$2,964,351
Manly	\$880,542	\$2,563,942
Marrickville	\$831,296	\$1,757,787
Mosman	\$910,326	\$1,722,011
North Sydney	\$4,785,676	\$7,112,117
Parramatta	\$1,293,957	\$5,654,043
Penrith	\$773,536	\$692,748
Pittwater	\$1,088,624	\$1,736,941
Randwick	\$1,898,258	\$3,757,310
Rockdale	\$800,757	\$1,423,251
Ryde	\$266,552	\$3,057,916
Strathfield	\$460,170	\$479,785
Sutherland	\$921,639	\$3,631,682
Sydney	\$12,655,746	\$40,165,989
Warringah	\$966,603	\$1,670,468
Waverley	\$3,997,775	\$10,340,723
Willoughby	\$2,383,273	\$3,761,687
Woollahra	\$2,472,867	\$4,801,653

Offence	Number of infringements	Value
Disobey no stopping sign	139,272	\$26,322,408
Park continuously for longer than permitted	245,885	\$19,916,685
Park without current ticket displayed	229,305	\$18,573,705
Stop in loading zone	61,805	\$8,343,675
Disobey no parking sign	92,316	\$7,477,596
Park after ticket expired	87,727	\$7,105,887
Stand vehicle in area longer than allowed	69,877	\$5,660,037
Stop in bus zone (not clearway or transit/bus lane)	20,755	\$3,922,695
Stop within 10 metres of an intersection		
without traffic lights	16,767	\$3,168,963
Park after meter expired	35,880	\$2,906,280