

Man jailed for 5 months over bin fires, vandalism

AN INTELLECTUALLY disabled man who set fire to newspapers in bins and smashed council toilet windows will spend five months in jail.

Christopher Luke Finn, 24, put newspapers found outside a Burnie supermarket in three bins and set fire to them in the early hours of June 11, 2014.

He lit a fire in and destroyed another bin near a café.

At the Supreme Court in Burnie yesterday Justice Shan Tennent sentenced Finn to five months' jail, backdating the term's beginning to October last year when he entered custody.

She ordered him to pay \$305 in compensation to bin company Veolia.

Finn pleaded guilty to two counts of unlawfully setting fire to property, one count of

attempting to unlawfully set fire to property and one charge of unlawfully injuring property.

Finn had a mild to moderate intellectual disability, a pre-sentence report said.

Justice Tennent said Finn appeared to offend out of "sheer boredom".

Finn told a Community Corrections employee that when offending last June he was

affected by drugs and that a young associate convinced him to light the fires.

She noted previous suspended and non-suspended terms of imprisonment and probation orders he received for other offences.

"There is no doubt that you present the justice system with, in my view, an insoluble problem," Justice Tennent said.