

ACT RUBBISH REPORT



The 2020 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. In the ACT, the Report is based on the count of 2,507 rubbish items from 25 surveyed locations (5,205 items from 9 locations in 2019).

ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:

17,096

17,113 in 2019



314.6

ESTIMATED UTE LOADS
290.4 in 2019
REMOVED



VOLUNTEER HOURS:

34,192

34,266 in 2019



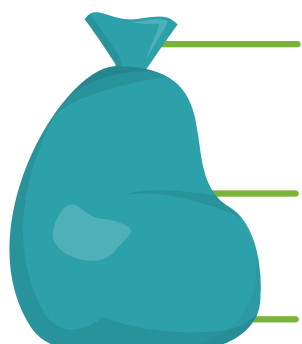
SITES REGISTERED:

146

132 in 2019



NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2019



% INCREASE

Metals more than doubled as a % of recorded rubbish, rising from 6% to 14%, rubber increased from 1 to 3% and polystyrene rose by 1%

PLASTICS

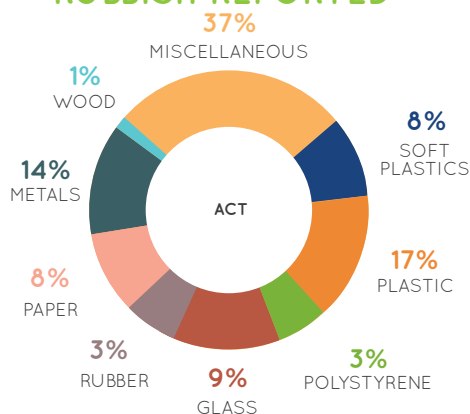
Soft plastics represented 8% and rigid plastics 17% of all reported items

% DECREASE

Miscellaneous items decreased by 8%, and paper by 3%

Glass, wood and Plastics remained consistent with 2019. In 2020 we created soft and rigid plastic categories

MAJOR TYPES OF RUBBISH REPORTED



2020 participation reflects the impact of COVID-19 on volunteer capacity to join with their neighbours and friends to clean up their favourite locations.

Despite local lockdowns and restrictions, Territorians continued to Step Up to Clean Up with a 10% increase in the number of registered activities across the ACT.

This clearly demonstrates the importance they place on local parks, streets, waterways and bushland and we applaud the estimated 17,096 volunteers who donned a mask and gloves during 2020.



TOP TEN RUBBISH ITEMS AS A % OF THE TOTAL RUBBISH SURVEYED

| GROUP ITEMS | RANK #1 | RANK #2 | RANK #3 | RANK #4 | RANK #5 | RANK #6 | RANK #7 | RANK #8 | RANK #9 | RANK #10 |
|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|----------|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| | Non-Food Packaging | Beverage Containers | Food Packaging | Beverage Rubbish | Soft Plastics | Construction Materials | Sanitary Items | Clothing | Household Items | Toys, Sport goods Ropes, Straps |
| | 43.35% | 14.98% | 11.73% | 9.2% | 8.04% | 4.82% | 2.81% | 2.09% | 1.43% | 1.27% |

NOTABLE CHANGES

While it is encouraging to see packaging as a percentage of reported rubbish decreased by 12% this year, counts across non-food were 3.48% and food 0.61% higher than the national average

Other areas in which Territory counts exceeded the national average were:
* Illegal dumping of construction materials at 2.7% higher
* Clothing at 0.8%
* Beverage related rubbish [the small stuff such as caps, lids, straws] at 0.69%
* And Sanitary items at 0.35%

Soft plastics have been separated into their own category for the first time in 2020. Counts include plastic food, retail and garbage bags, plastic confectionery wrappers, cling wrap and 'other' soft plastics. While the 2020 volunteers count of 146 of these items might not sound like many, they represented 8% of all surveyed rubbish and 32.8% of plastics.

*Grouped Data made up 99.7% [also 99.7% in 2019] of surveyed rubbish

| SINGLE ITEMS | RANK #1 | RANK #2 | RANK #3 | RANK #4 | RANK #5 | RANK #6 | RANK #7 | RANK #8 | RANK #9 | RANK #10 |
|--------------|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| | Cigarette Butts | Plastic Lids & Bottle Caps | Alcoholic Beverage Bottles | Plastic Chip & Confectionery Wrappers | Foil Chip Confectionery Wrappers | Other Misc. Items | Soft Drink Cans | Plastic Food Bags | Glass Soft Drink Bottles | PET Drink Containers |
| | 31.12% | 5.89% | 5.34% | 4.02% | 4.02% | 3.30% | 3.14% | 2.37% | 2.15% | 1.82% |

NOTABLE CHANGES

While cigarette butt counts decreased by 11.28%, their impact as a percentage of rubbish reported across the Territory is double that of the national average. Albeit small, the environmental impact of a cigarette butt cannot be underestimated. Leaching toxins and leaving small pieces of plastic in their wake - every littered butt provides immediate, short and long-term danger for our precious flora and fauna.

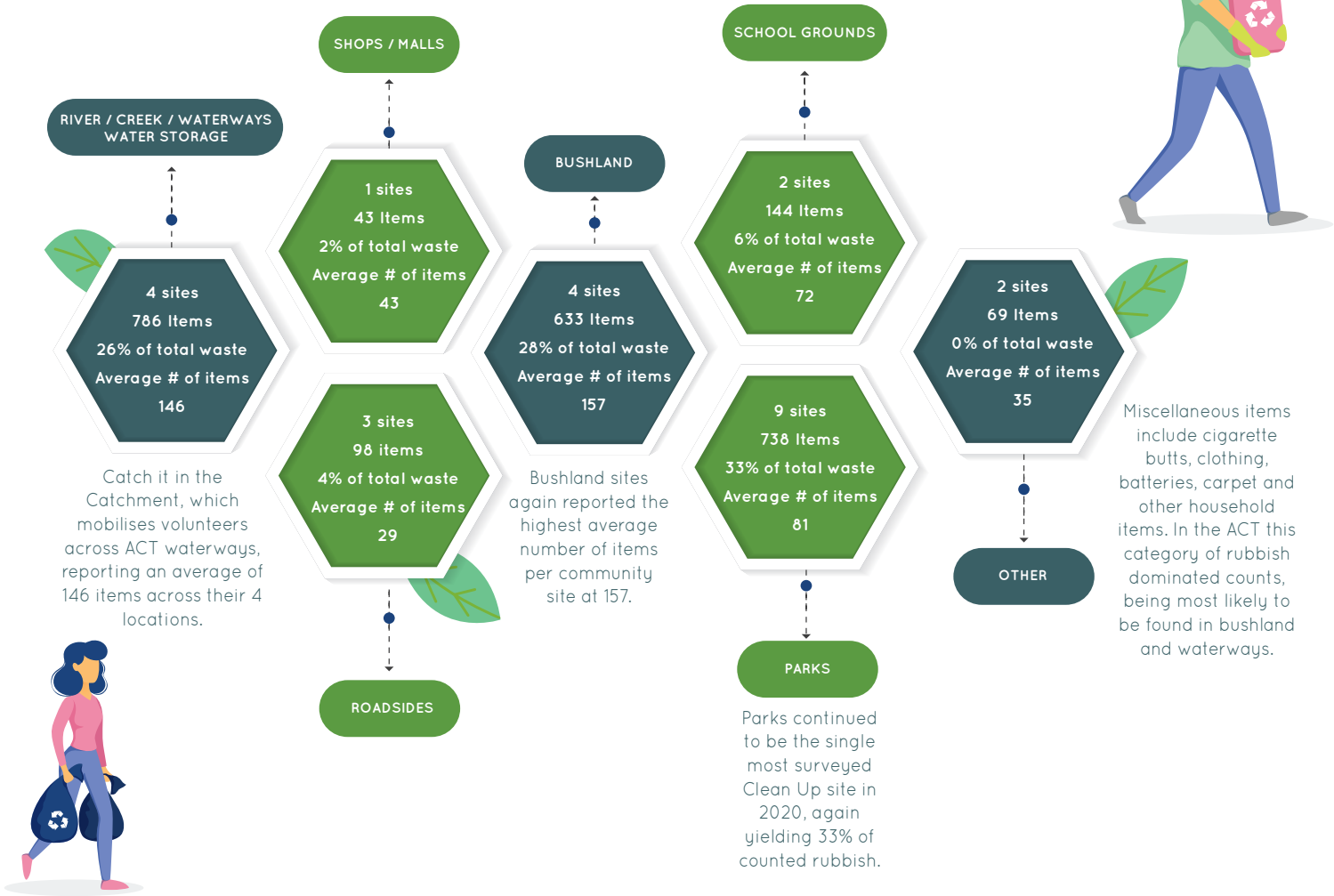
Other 'small stuff' is also a problem - plastic bottle caps and lids counts at 5.9% are 2% above the national average. This is the second highest % in Australia.

Alcoholic beverage bottles as a percentage of all rubbish rate 3.9% above the national average.

Soft drink cans, all of which are redeemable, are also escaping into our environment recording 0.4% above the national average.

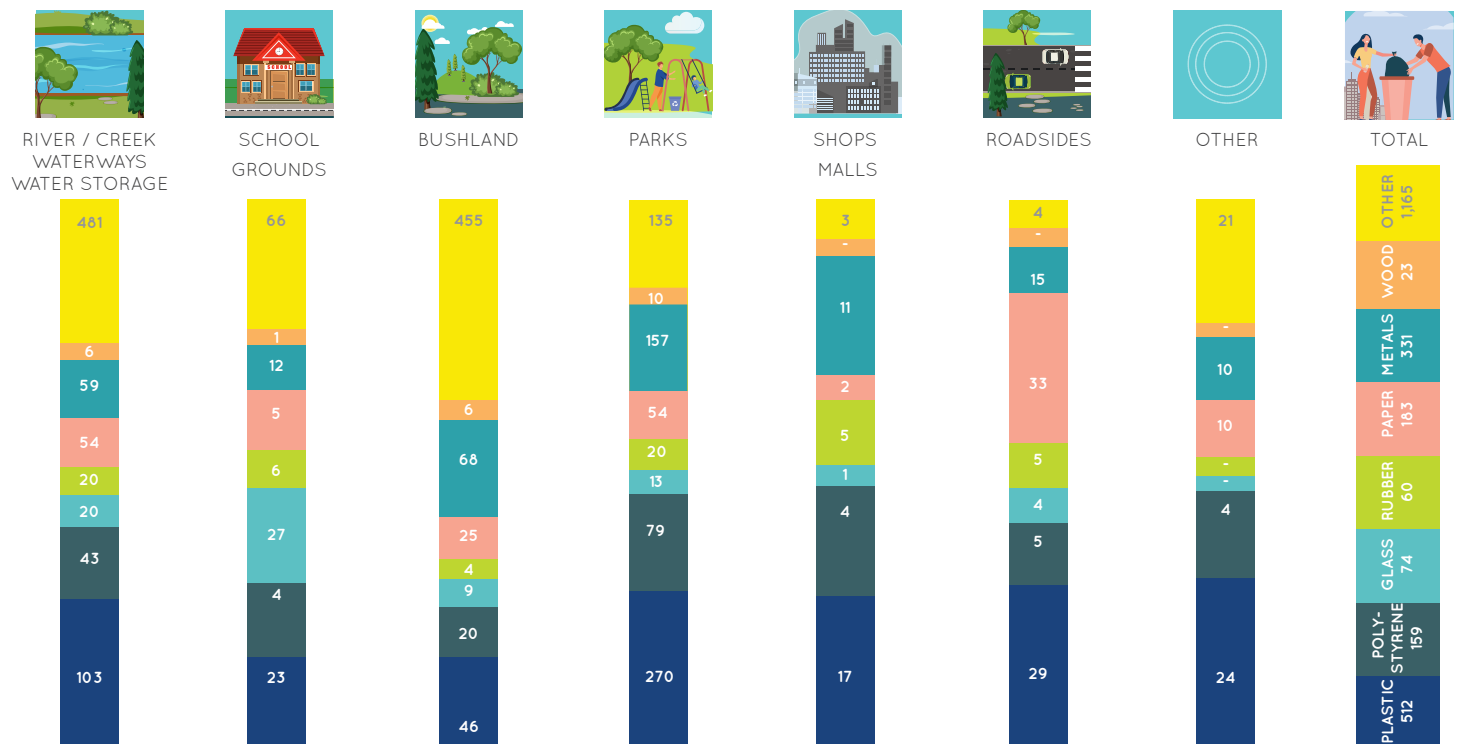
*Individual Item Count Top 10 data = 63.2% (73.1% in 2019)

FAVOURITE CLEAN UP SITES



Plastics accounted for 25% of all reported rubbish in 2020.

Over half of the reported plastics were counts at park locations with 20% being recording at waterway sites.



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