NSW

RUBBISH REPORT



The 2020 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. Across NSW, the Report is based on the count of 115,256 rubbish items from 442 surveyed locations (138.197 items from 365 locations in 2019).

ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS: 297,076 314,064 in 2019

6,602 **ESTIMATED UTE LOADS** 6,765 in 2019 **REMOVED**

VOLUNTEER HOURS: 594,152

628,128 in 2019

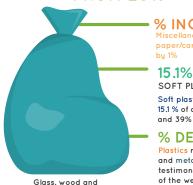
SITES REGISTERED:

3,039



3,075 in 2019

NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2019



rubber percentages

were all consistent with

last year

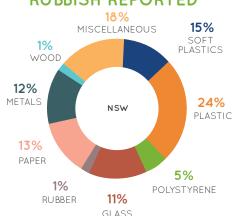
- % INCREASE paper/cardboard increased

SOFT PLASTICS Soft plastics represented 15.1 % of all material types and 39% of all plastics

% DECREASE

Plastics reduced by 13% and metals by 2% -testimony to the success of the well-established container refund scheme Polystyrene reduced by

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, NSW volunteers continued to Step Up to Clean Up with a less than 2% reduction in the number of registered activities across the state.

This clearly demonstrates the importance volunteers place on local parks, streets, waterways and bushland and we applaud the estimated 297,076 volunteers who donned a mask and gloves during 2020.

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

GROUP ITEMS



RANK #1 Non-Food Packaaina 39.04%



RANK #2 Soft Plastics 15.14%



RANK #3 Beverage Containers 14.57%



RANK #4 Food Packaging 10.53%



RANK #5 Beverage Rubbish 8.32%



RANK #6 Household Items 4.86%



RANK #7 Construction Materials 2.31%



RANK #8 Sanitaru Items 1.78%



RANK #9 Clothing 1.54%



Toys, Sport goods Ropes, Straps 1.49%

NOTABLE CHANGES

Packaging continues to dominate rubbish counts representing 49.6% of all reported rubbish during the year. This is slightly higher than 2019, during which packaging represented 43.8%

Beverage container counts continue to decline - reflective of the impact of the state's well-established container refund scheme. In 2020 they reflected 14.6% of counted rubbish. In 2019 this % was 23.2

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. 2020 volunteers counted 11.611 of these items through their reporting. representing 15.1% of all surveyed rubbish and 39% of plastics. This is 1.4% higher than the national average.

*Grouped Data made up 99.6% (98.9% in 2019) of surveyed rubbish

SINGLE ITEMS



Ciagrette Butts 14.72%

RANK #1



RANK #2 Plastic Chip Confect. Wrappers 5.75%



RANK #3 Other Misc. Items 5.17%



RANK #4 Pieces 4.50%



RANK #5 Other Soft Plastics 3.75%



RANK #6 Plastic Lids & Bottle Caps 3.75%



RANK #7 Other Paper & Cardboard 3.22%



RANK #8 Alcoholic Beverage Bottles 3.08%



PFT Drink Containers 3.07%



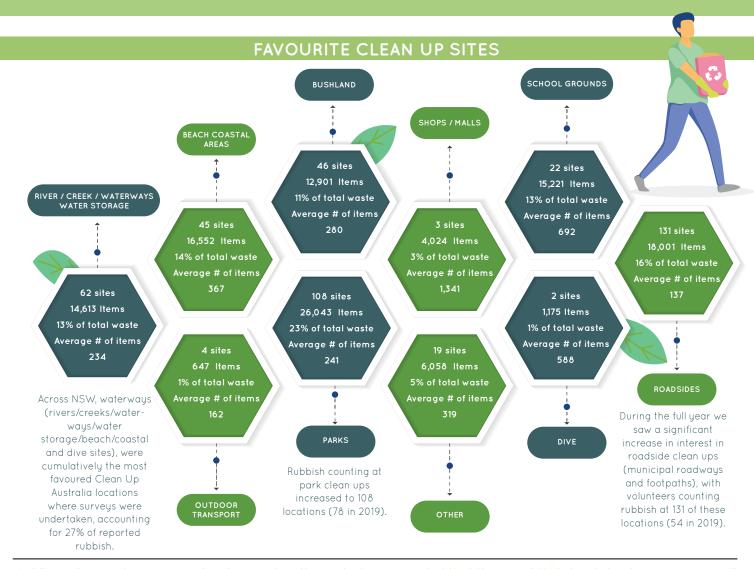
RANK #10 Plastic Food Baas 2.59%

NOTABLE CHANGES

More than half of the single items reported in 2020 are either or contain plastic. Its persistence is the challenge – hard plastics will outlive us all, and they and their soft plastic cousins rip with the danger of entering the food-chain

Single use plastic continues to dominate exceeding the national average by 0.1%, other soft plastics by 0.5% and PET containers by 0.14%

environmental impact of a cigarette butt cannot be underestimated. Leaching toxins and leaving small pieces of short and long-term danger for our precious flora and fauna.



While parks are always a popular clean up location, volunteers reported that these and their local streets were more easily accessible during COVID-19 lockdowns, when activity was restricted to short periods of socially distanced outdoor exercise. Once again, plastic items were the dominant rubbish type reported at these locations – representing 38.9% of rubbish reported in parks and 37.5% of that counted along roadsides.





Founding Partner

















