

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



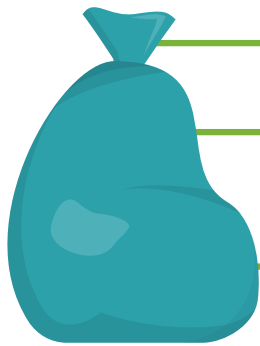
SITES REGISTERED:

3,039

3,075 in 2019



NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2019



Glass, wood and rubber percentages were all consistent with last year

% INCREASE

Miscellaneous items and paper/cardboard increased by 1%

15.1%

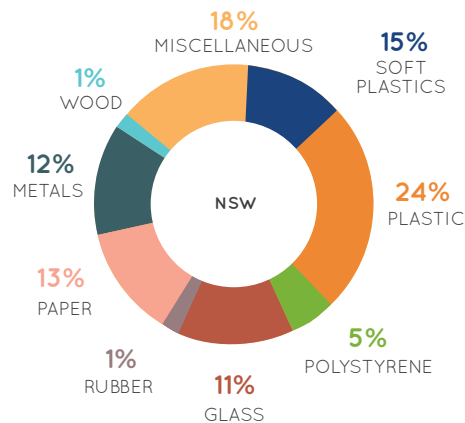
SOFT PLASTICS

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 2%

MAJOR TYPES OF RUBBISH REPORTED



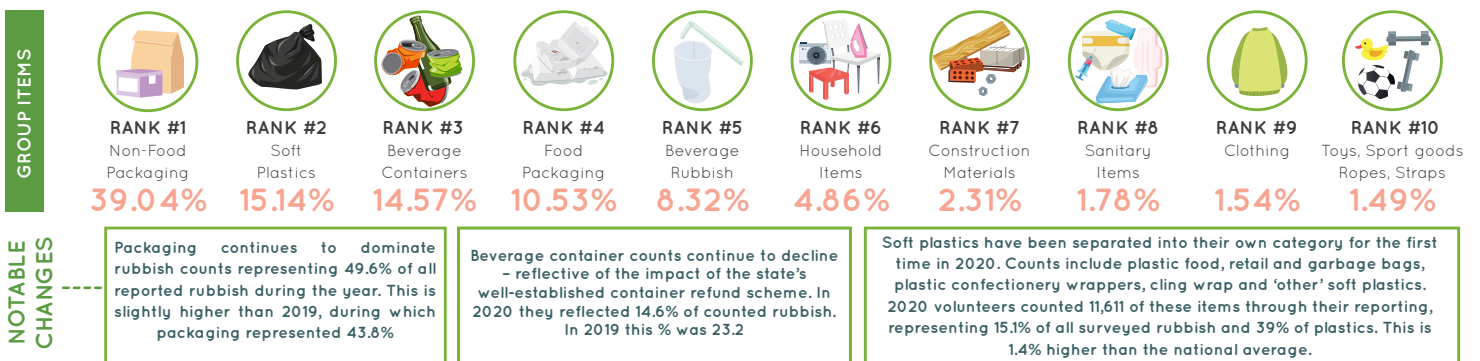
2020 participation reflects the impact of COVID-19 on volunteer capacity to join with their neighbours and friends to clean up their favourite locations.

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.

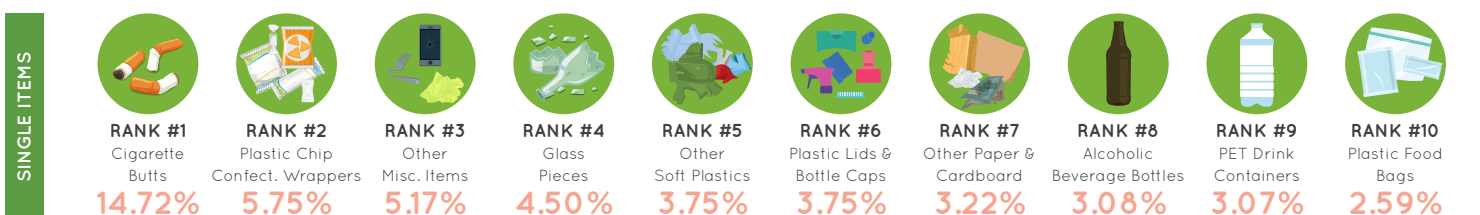


This clearly demonstrates the importance volunteers place on local parks, streets, waterways and bushland and we applaud the estimated 297,076 volunteers who donned a mask and gloves during 2020.

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



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



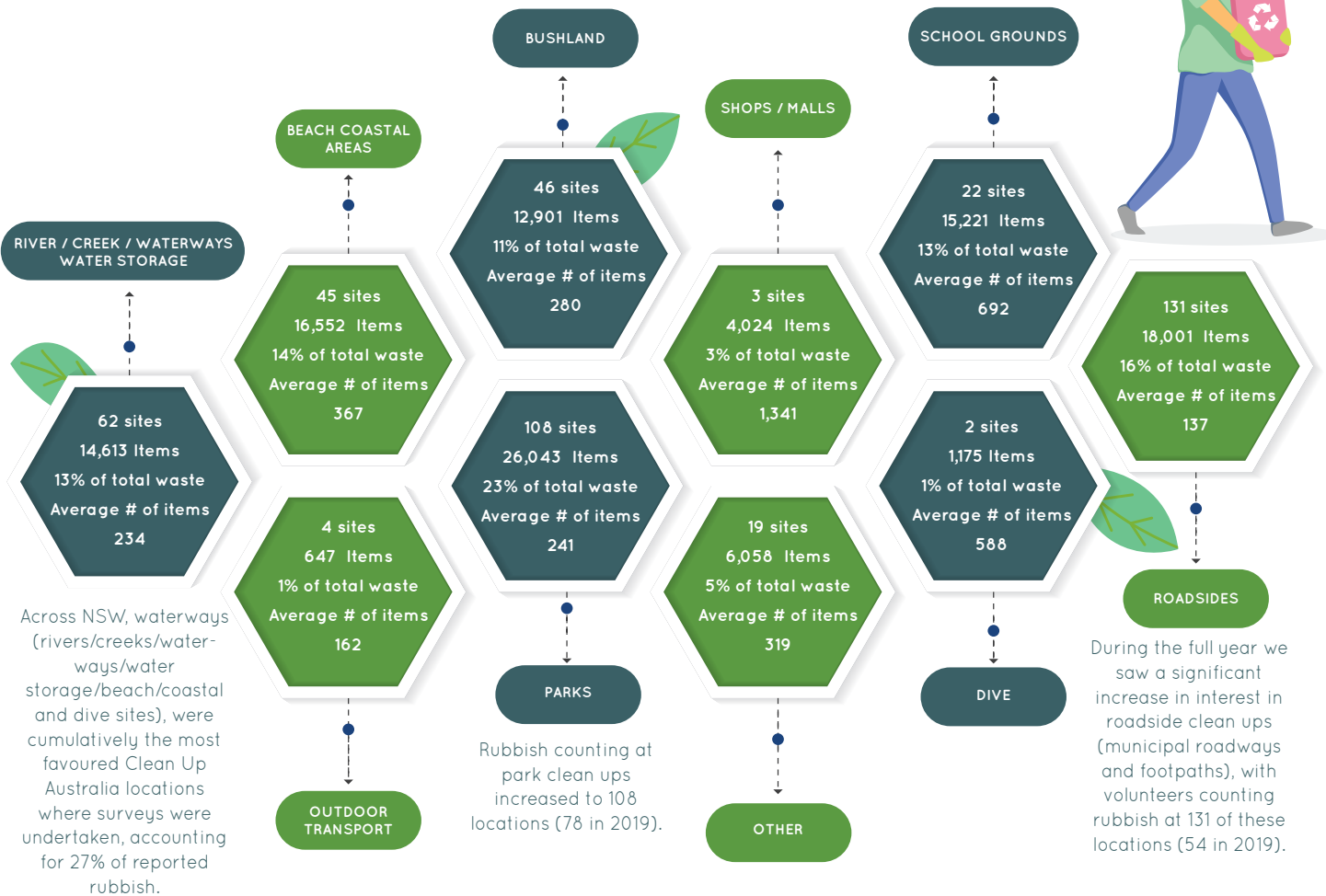
More than half of the single items reported in 2020 are either or contain plastic. Its persistence is the challenge - hard plastics will outlive us all, and they and their soft plastic cousins rip with the danger of entering the food-chain

Single use plastic continues to dominate the Top 10 with confectionery wrappers exceeding the national average by 0.1%, other soft plastics by 0.5% and PET containers by 0.14%

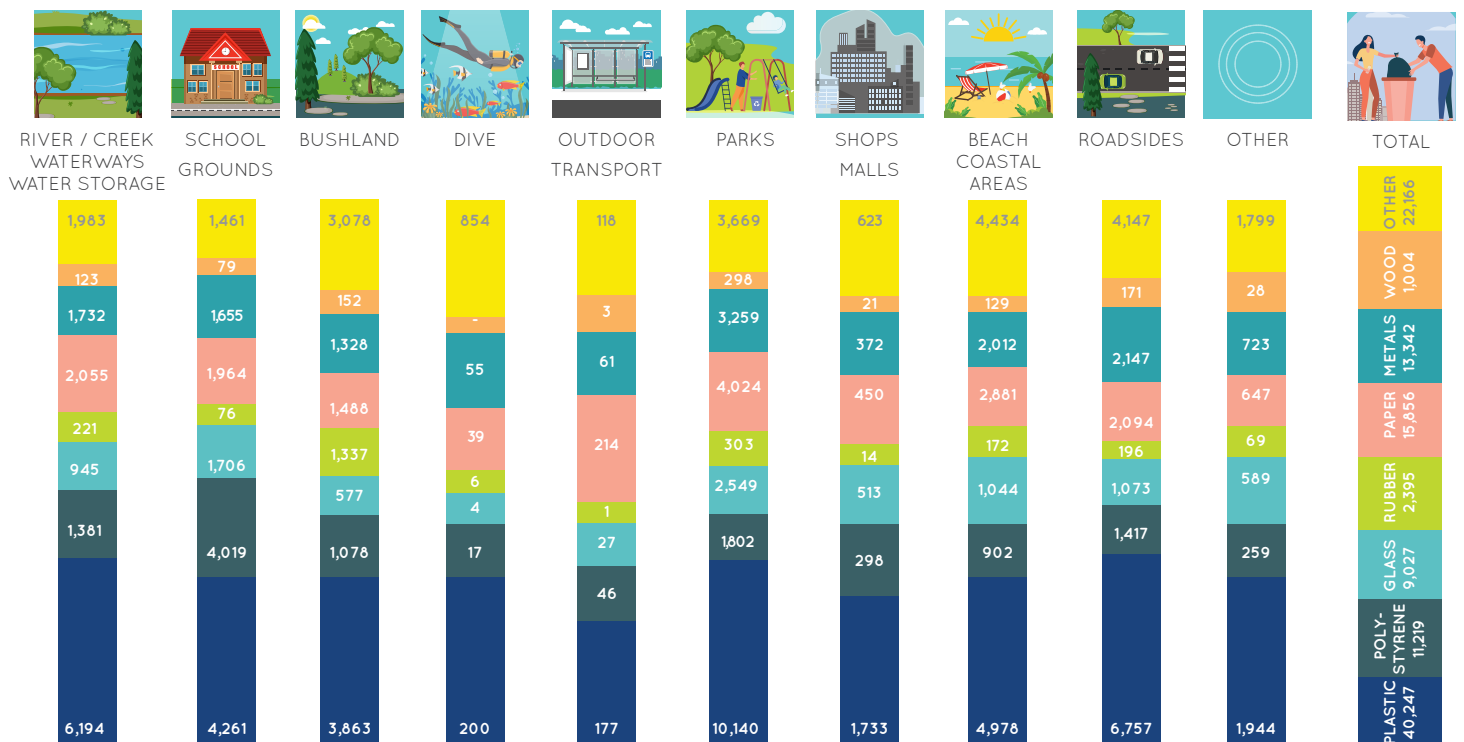
Cigarette butts also remain a problem. While small, the environmental impact of a cigarette butt cannot be underestimated. Leaching toxins and leaving small pieces of plastic in their wake - every littered butt provides immediate, short and long-term danger for our precious flora and fauna.

*Individual Item Count Top 10 data = 49.6% (50.4% in 2019)

FAVOURITE CLEAN UP SITES



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



Partners

sodastream



Media Partners



Suppliers