

RUBBISH REPORT



The 2020 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. Across Queensland, the Report is based on the count of 123,363 rubbish items from 331 surveyed locations (126.358 items from 232 locations in 2019).

ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:



3,633.6 **ESTIMATED UTE LOADS** 3,488.8 in 2019 **REMOVED**

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

282,458



330,966 in 2019

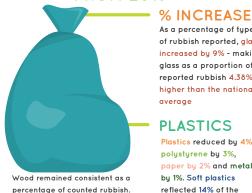
SITES REGISTERED:

1,617



1,570 in 2019

NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2019



Miscellaneous items increased

by 2% and rubber by 1%

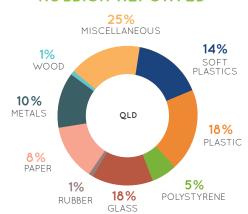
As a percentage of types of rubbish reported, glass

increased by 9% - making glass as a proportion of reported rubbish 4.38% higher than the national average

PLASTICS

Plastics reduced by 4%, polystyrene by 3%, paper by 2% and metals by 1%. Soft plastics reflected 14% of the plastics count - in line with national averages

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, QLD volunteers continued to Step Up to Clean Up with a 3% increase 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 141,229 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 Packaging



RANK #2 Soft Plastics 46.89% 13.74%



RANK #3 Beverage Containers 12.89%



Food Packaaina 8.48%



RANK #5 Beverage Rubbish 7.69%



RANK #6 Household Items 3.03%



RANK #7 Toys, Sport goods Ropes, Straps 1.98%



RANK #8 Sanitary Items 1.95%



RANK #9 Construction Materials 1.79%



RANK #10 Clothing

1.19%

NOTABLE CHANGE

Packaging continues to dominate rubbish counts representing 55.4% of all reported rubbish during the year. While on-par with 2019, this is 5.1% higher than the national average

Beverage container counts continue to decline - reflective of the impact of the state's container refund scheme. In 2020 they reflected 12.9% of counted rubbish. In 2019 the count was 17.5%

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 10,955 of these items through their reporting, representing 13.7% of all surveyed rubbish and 43.9% of plastics.

*Grouped Data made up 99.6% (99.2% in 2019) of surveyed rubbish

SINGLE ITEMS



RANK #1 Cigarette Butts

22.56%



RANK #2 Glass Other

9.04%



RANK #3 Plastic Chip Confect. Wrappers 5.65%



RANK #4 Pieces

4.16%



RANK #5 Plastic Lids & Bottle Caps 3.87%



RANK #6 Other Soft Plastics 3.75%



Alcoholic Beverage Bottles 3.02%



PET Drink Containers



2.55%



Soft Drink Cans 2.46%



Plastic Food Bags 1.91%

NOTABLE CHANGES

persistence is the challenge – hard plastics will outlive us all, and they and their soft plastic cousins ripwith the danger of entering the food-chain

Single use plastic continues to dominate the Top 10 with 'other soft plastics' exceeding

local issue, with 'other glass' exceeding the national average by 5%

Cigarette butts also continue to be a problem with their count increasing by 3%. While small, the environmental impact of a cigarette butt cannot be underestimated. Leaching toxins and leaving small pieces of plastic in their long-term danger for our precious flora and fauna.



Across all locations, plastics were the rubbish type most commonly reported, representing 28.6% of the total rubbish counted. These were closely followed by miscellaneous items, representing 25.8% of all counted rubbish. Plastic items were the dominant rubbish type reported at park sites – representing 34.2% of rubbish reported in parks and 24.4% of that counted along roadsides





Founding Partner



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