

# TAS

## RUBBISH REPORT



The 2020 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. Across Tasmania, the Report is based on the count of 6,691 rubbish items from 43 surveyed locations (14,259 items from 62 locations in 2019).

### ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:

**20,067**

21,866 in 2019



**613.8**

ESTIMATED UTE LOADS  
644.6 in 2019  
**REMOVED**



### VOLUNTEER HOURS:

**40,134**

43,732 in 2019



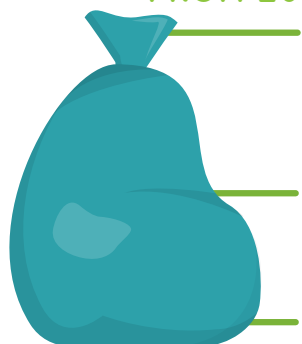
### SITES REGISTERED:

**280**

293 in 2019



### NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2019



#### % INCREASE

As a percentage of types of rubbish reported, **paper** increased by **8%**, **plastics** by **7%**, **polystyrene** by **2%**, and **wood** by **1%**

#### 17.3%

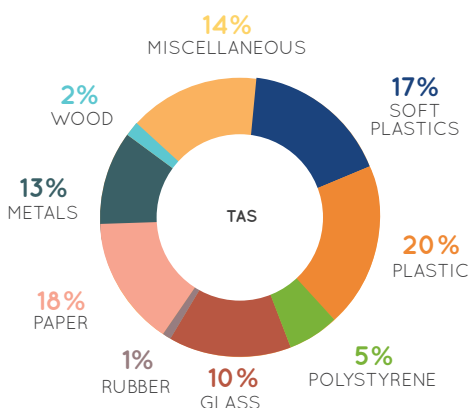
**SOFT PLASTICS**  
Soft plastics reflected 17.3% of the plastics count- 4% above the national average

#### % DECREASE

Metals decreased by **14%**, **miscellaneous** items by **3%**, and **glass** decreased by **1%**

Rubber remained consistent as a percentage of counted rubbish

### 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, TAS volunteers continued to Step Up to Clean Up with less than a 5% decrease 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 20,067 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	Soft Plastics	Beverage Containers	Food Packaging	Beverage Rubbish	Household Items	Sanitary Items	Clothing	Construction Materials	Toys, Sport goods Ropes, Straps
	24.59%	17.28%	17%	14.47%	9.53%	8.62%	4.18%	1.48%	1.27%	1.08%

NOTABLE CHANGES
While non-food packaging continued to dominate rubbish counts, it is the % of food packaging that raises alarms - with TAS recording 4.6% higher counts than the national average and reporting the highest percentage counts across Australia
TAS also recorded the highest % counts of household items, nearly double the national average of 4.5%
Beverage container % counts were the third highest nationally, just 0.24% behind WA and 5% behind the national leader [VIC]
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 818 of these items through their reporting, representing 17.3% of all surveyed rubbish and 46.5% of plastics. This is the highest count % rating nationally.

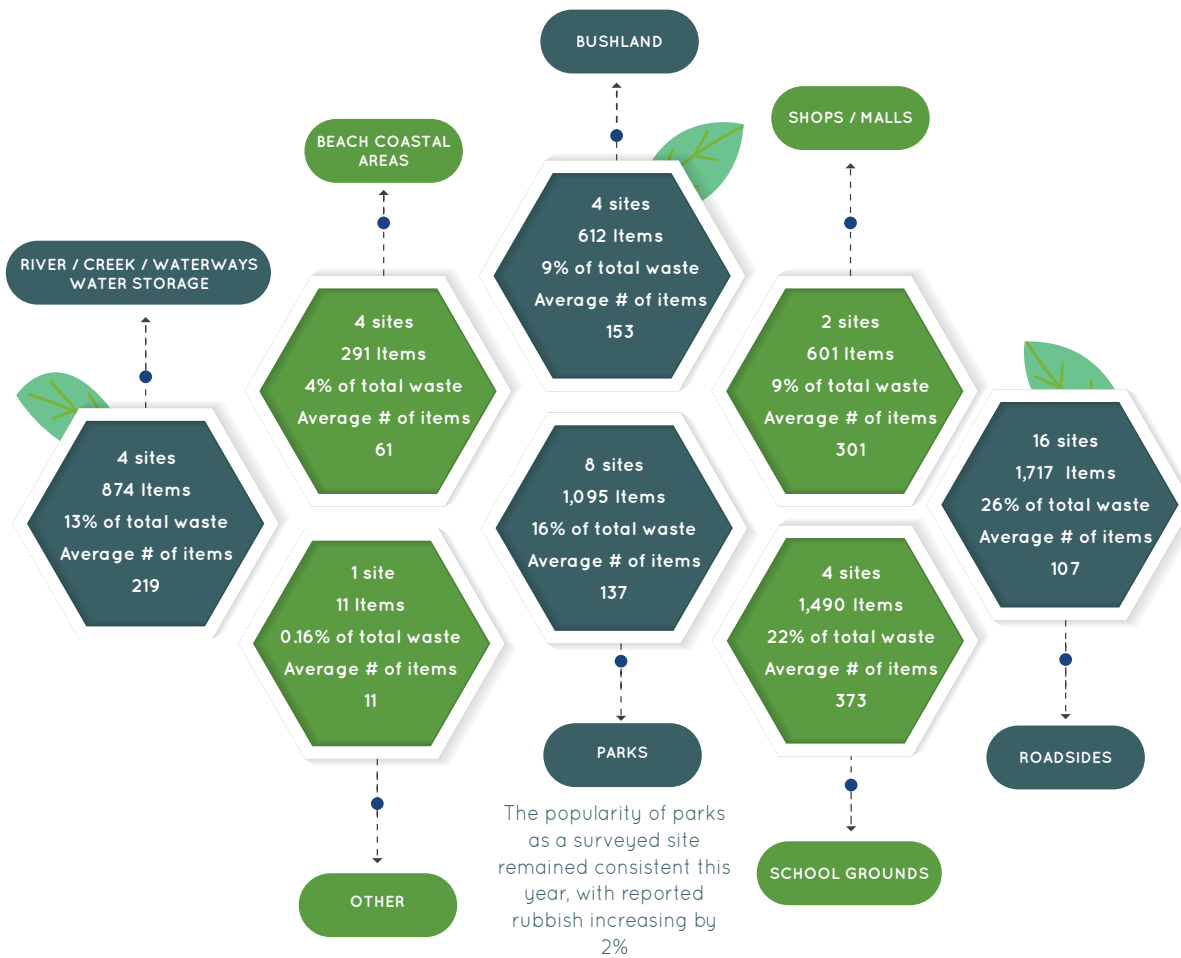
\*Grouped Data made up 99.5% (98.61% in 2019) of surveyed rubbish

SINGLE ITEMS	RANK #1	RANK #2	RANK #3	RANK #4	RANK #5	RANK #6	RANK #7	RANK #8	RANK #9	RANK #10
	Plastic Chip Confect. Wrappers	Cigarette Butts	Small Paper Pieces	Plastic Lids & Bottle Caps	Alcoholic Beverage Bottles	Plastic Packaging	Foil Chip Confect. Wrappers	Glass Pieces	Glass Soft Drink Bottles	Soft Drink Cans
	12.21%	9.89%	6.61%	4.1%	3.93%	3.65%	3.63%	2.87%	2.79%	2.75%

NOTABLE CHANGES
Tasmanian plastic chip and confectionery wrapper % counts were the highest in Australia, and more than double the national average of 5.7%
Beverage containers also continue to feature in the Top 10 single item list - cumulatively adding up to 9.5% of the 52.4% of rubbish this list represents
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 = 52.4% (58% in 2019)

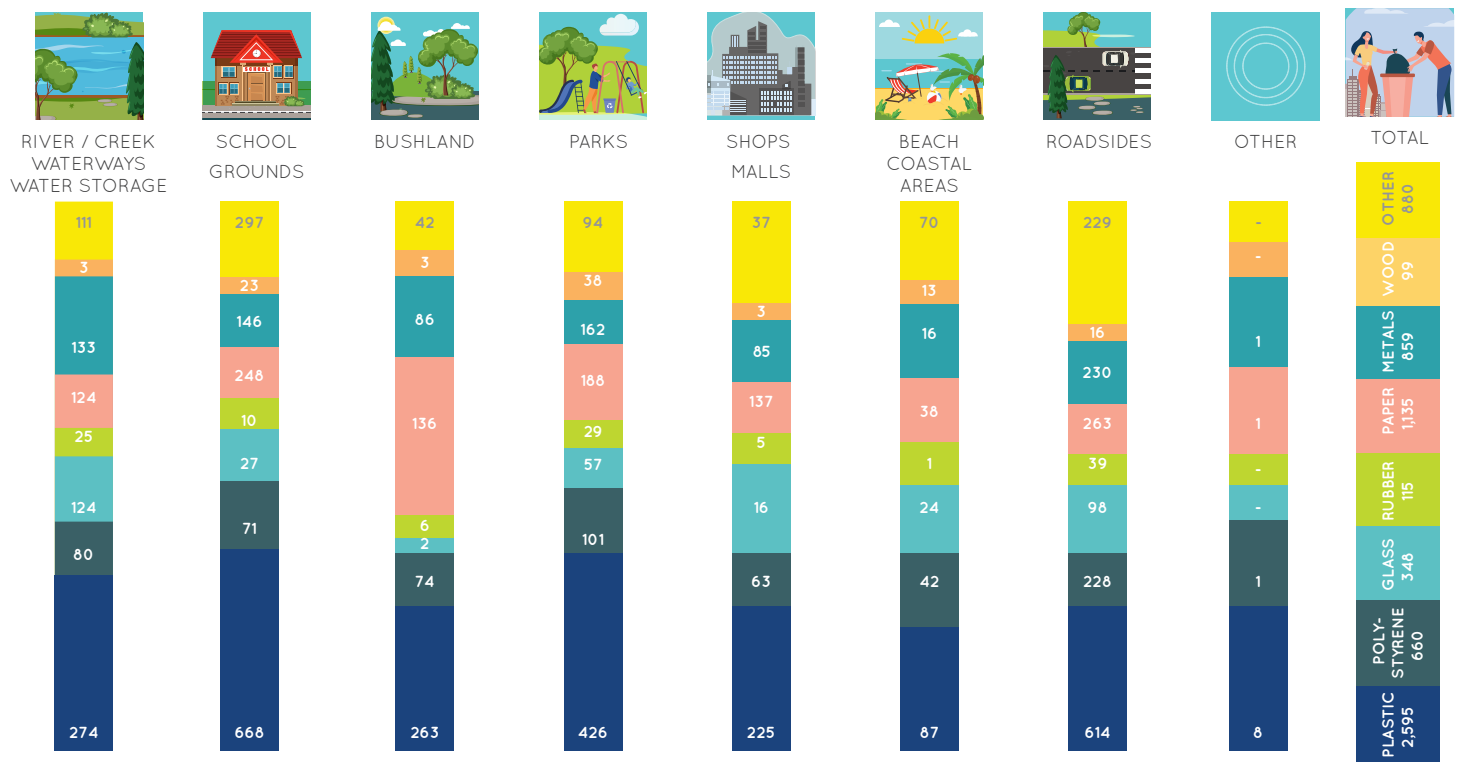
## FAVOURITE CLEAN UP SITES



Across TAS, municipal roadsides, which include footpaths and verges, were the most popular site surveyed by volunteers, doubling from 8 locations in 2019 to 16 locations this year and accounting for 26% of all reported rubbish

Across all locations, plastics were the rubbish type most commonly reported, representing 38.8% of the total rubbish counted making them the dominant rubbish type reported. Plastics represented 38.9% of rubbish reported in parks and 35.7% of that counted along roadsides.

These were followed by paper & cardboard, representing 17% of all counted rubbish. Paper accounted for 15.3% of roadside and 17.2% of park rubbish.



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