

VIC RUBBISH REPORT



The 2020 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. Across Victoria, the Report is based on the count of 59,159 rubbish items from 239 surveyed locations (102,193 items from 176 locations in 2019).

ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:

110,114

111,677 in 2019



3,212

ESTIMATED UTE LOADS
3,362.2 in 2019
REMOVED



VOLUNTEER HOURS:

220,228

223,354 in 2019



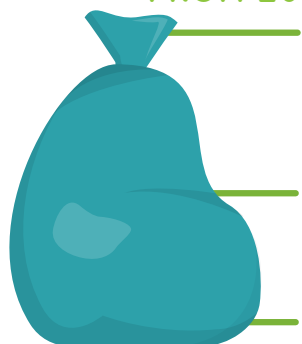
SITES REGISTERED:

1,482

1,531 in 2019



NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2019



Rubber and wood remained consistent as a percentage of counted rubbish

% INCREASE

As a percentage of types of rubbish reported, **plastics** increased by **21%**, **glass** by **7%**, **polystyrene** and **paper** by **2%**

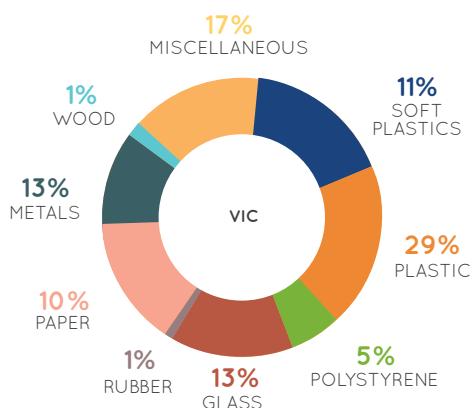
11.5%

SOFT PLASTICS
Soft plastics reflected 11.5% of the plastics count

% DECREASE

miscellaneous items decreased by **21%**, and **metals** by **11%**,

MAJOR TYPES OF RUBBISH REPORTED



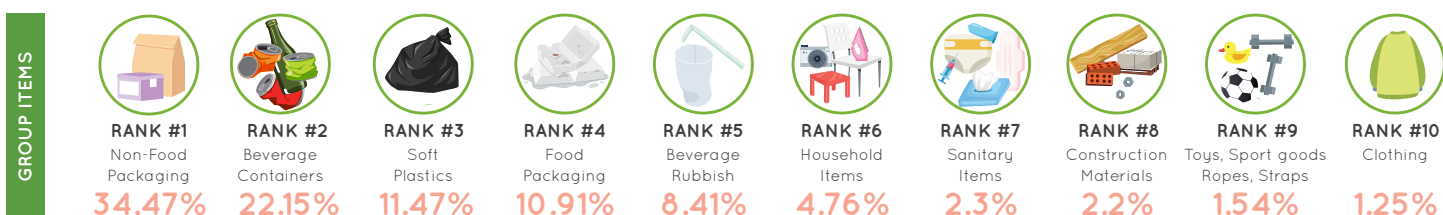
2020 participation reflects the impact of COVID-19 on volunteer capacity to join with their neighbours and friends to clean up their favourite locations.

Despite strict and prolonged local lockdowns and restrictions, VIC volunteers continued to Step Up to Clean Up registering 1,482 locations.



This clearly demonstrates the importance volunteers place on local parks, streets, waterways and bushland and we applaud the estimated 110,114 volunteers who donned a mask and gloves during 2020.

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



NOTABLE CHANGES

The last state to introduce a beverage container deposit/refund scheme, Victorian volunteers continue to report the highest percentage of beverage containers in the country - 7.9% higher than the national average and 5% higher than other jurisdictions which are yet to roll-out their schemes

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 4,726 of these items through their reporting, representing 11.5% of all surveyed rubbish and 28.5% of plastics.

*Grouped Data made up 99.5% (99.4% in 2019) of surveyed rubbish



NOTABLE CHANGES

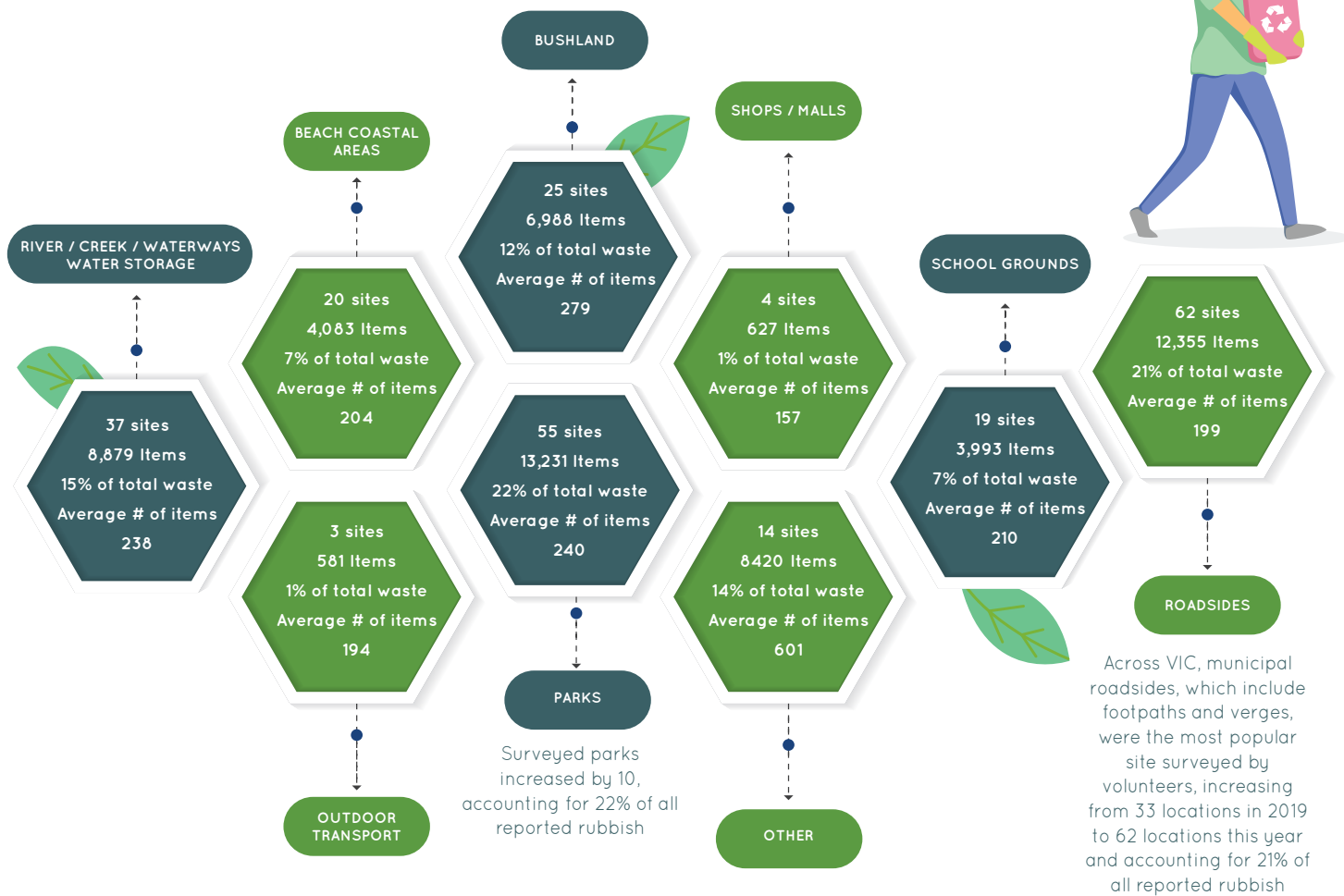
More than half of the single items reported in 2020 are either or contain plastic. Its persistence is the challenge - hard plastics will outlive us all, and they and their soft plastic cousins rip with the danger of entering the food-chain.

Beverage containers continue to feature in the Top 10 single item list - cumulatively adding up to 24.2% of the 55.9% 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 = 55.9% (71.8% 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.

Across all locations, plastics were the rubbish type most commonly reported, representing 42.1% of the total rubbish counted. Plastics were the dominant items reported at parks and along roadsides, representing 57.6% in parks and 29.6% along roadsides.



Founding Partner



Partners

sodastream



Media Partners



Suppliers