

RUBBISH REPORT



The 2020 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. Across Western Australia, the Report is based on the count of 37,033 rubbish items from 105 surveyed locations (34,504 items from 83 locations in 2019).

ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:



1,506.8 **ESTIMATED UTE LOADS** 1.392.6 in 2019 REMOVED

VOLUNTEER HOURS:

119,498

143,388 in 2019

SITES REGISTERED:



653 in 2019

NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2019



percentage of counted

% INCREASE

As a percentage of tupes of rubbish reported.

increased by 3%, glass and polystyrene by 1%

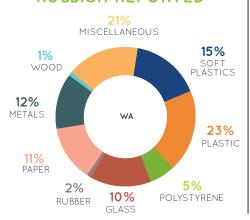
14.7%

SOFT PLASTICS Soft plastics reflected 14.7% of the plastics count - 1% above the national average

% DECREASE

Plastics decreased by 2%, and metals, paper & rubber each by 1%

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, WA volunteers continued to Step Up to Clean Up with only an 8% decrease in the number of registered activities across the state.

This clearly demonstrates the importance volunteers place on our local parks, streets, beaches, waterways and bushland and we applaud the estimated 59,749 volunteers who donned a mask and gloves during 2020

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

GROUP ITEMS



Non-Food Packaging 36.64%



Beverage Containers 17.24%



RANK #3 Soft Plastics 14.73%



Beverage Rubbish 9.16%



RANK #5 Food Packaaina 8.11%



RANK #6 Household Items 6.29%



RANK #7 Construction Materials 2.21%



Sanitary Items 2.1%



Toys, Sport goods Ropes, Straps 1.58%



RANK #10 Clothing

1.04%

NOTABLE CHANGE

Household items % counts were 1.8% higher than the national average

Beverage container % counts were the second highest nationally, just 0.3% ahead of TAS and 5% behind the national leader **LVIC1**

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 3,794 of these items through their reporting, representing 14.7% of all surveyed rubbish and 39.6% of plastics

*Grouped Data made up 99.1% (98.9% in 2019) of surveyed rubbish

SINGLE ITEMS



RANK #1 Cigarette 9.72%



RANK #2 Misc. Items 9.57%



RANK #3 RANK #4 Plastic Chip Confect. Wrappers Bottle Caps 5.83%



RANK #5 Glass Pieces 4.5%



RANK #6 Soft Drink Cans 3.99%



RANK #7 Small Pieces of Paper 3.33%



Other 3.29%



RANK #9 Alcoholic Beverage Bottles 3.16%



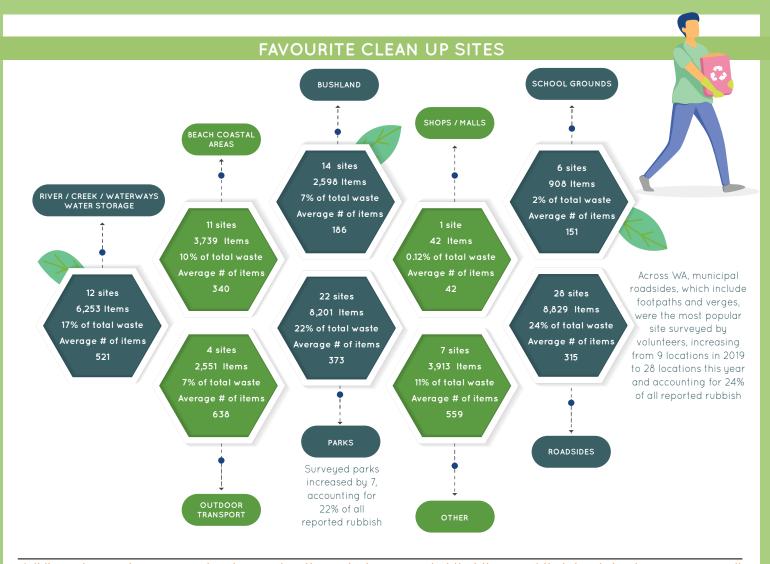
RANK #10 Polystyrene Pieces 3.15%

NOTABLE CHANGES

While reducing their % count by 5.4%, cigarette butts remain a problem. Albeit small, the environmental impact of a cigarette butt of plastic in their wake – every littered butt provides immediate, short and long-term danger for our precious flora and fauna

cans increased by 0.6% and soft drink

Other small stuff is also a problem – plastic bottle caps and lids counts at 4.7% are 0.7% above the national average. Broken glass is back in the Top 10 list, counting 0.3% ahead of national averages, plastic confectionery wrappers came in 2.1% above 2019 % counts, and are also marginally above the national average by +0.2%



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. Plastic items were the diominant rubbish type reported at these locations - representing 40% of rubbish reported in parks and 41.5% of that counted along roadsides

Across all locations, plastics were the rubbish type most commonly reported, representing 33% of the total rubbish counted











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