

LITTER REPORT FY23 QLD

During the financial year of 2023, Clean Up Australia continued to encourage volunteers across the nation to **Step Up to Clean Up**, by taking to their streets, beaches, parks, bushland and waterways to remove accumulated litter.

While over a million joined us last year across 17,139 sites the Litter Report FY23 is a snapshot of litter removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers during Clean Up Australia Day and Every Day Clean Ups across a portion of these sites. Across Queensland, the Report is based on the count of 91,609 items from 282 surveyed locations (49,907 items from 139 locations in 2022).

QLD SITES REGISTERED:

3,426 (2,148 in 2022)

QLD ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:

214,665 (181,988 in 2022)

QLD ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS:

429,330 (363,976 in 2022)

MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

	FY23 Count	%
Hard Plastics	29,611	32.3%
Soft Plastics	26,857	29.3%
All Other Plastics	19,016	20.8%
Metal	4,944	5.4%
Paper/Cardboard	4,920	5.4%
Glass	3,798	4.1%
Miscellaneous	968	1.1%
Rubber	541	0.6%
Wood	535	0.6%
E-Waste	419	0.5%
	91,609	100.0%

NOTABLE % CHANGES FROM 2022

↑ Increases:	↓ Decreases:	Unchanged:
Hard Plastics 2.4%	All Other Plastics 9.2%	Rubber
Soft Plastics 6.4%	Glass 1.7%	Wood
Metal 1.6%	Miscellaneous 0.6%	E-Waste
Paper/Cardboard 0.7%		

TOP 10 GROUPED ITEMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL LITTER SURVEYED

Grouped Items	FY23 Count	%
Non-Food Packaging	27,664	30.2%
Soft Plastics	26,857	29.3%
Food Packaging	16,944	18.5%
Beverage Containers	10,515	11.5%
Beverage Litter	3,382	3.7%
Household Items	2,665	2.9%
Clothing	845	0.9%
Construction Materials	827	0.9%
Toys & Sporting Equipment	675	0.7%
Sanitary Items	633	0.7%

NOTABLE CHANGES

While the order of the top three grouped items remains consistent with 2022, soft plastics increased by 6.3%, non-food packaging by 4.0% and beverage containers by 1.7%.

The good news is sanitary items decreased by 1.5%, reflecting a decrease in the number of face masks reported. Food packaging decreased by 2.2% and beverage related litter also decreased by a huge 8.9%. This category includes bottle caps, corks and straws. Plastic straws have been banned in Queensland since September 2021.

All other items show minimal percentage changes over 2022.

TOP 10 INDIVIDUAL ITEMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL LITTER SURVEYED

Individual Items	FY23 Count	%
Soft Plastic Pieces	22,242	24.3%
Cigarette Butts	15,483	16.9%
Takeaway Food Containers	8,957	9.8%
Plastic Beverage Bottles (single-use)	4,732	5.2%
Pieces of Plastic	4,118	4.5%
Aluminium Beverage Cans	3,871	4.2%
Chips and Confectionery Bags	3,039	3.3%
Polystyrene Packaging	2,977	3.2%
Straws	2,897	3.2%
Glass Pieces	2,376	2.6%

NOTABLE CHANGES

In FY23 and 2022, soft plastic pieces are the single most reported item with an increase of 5%. Disappointingly, cigarette butts moved into second position with an increase of 7%. As a percentage of items, reported fast food takeaway containers have seen a reduction of 5% from 2022 but are still in third place. Of interest, we have seen bottle caps and lids move from the fourth most reported item in 2022 to 12th in FY23 with a decrease of 8%.

LITTER DISTRIBUTION BY SITE TYPE

QLD	Number of sites	% of total litter count
Coastal/Beach	47	15.9%
Footpath	20	7.5%
Park	77	19.2%
Public Bushland	25	10.0%
River/Creek	55	28.0%
Roadway	25	8.0%
School Grounds	25	7.3%
Shops/Mall	1	0.4%
Other	7	3.7%