

# LITTER REPORT FY24 QLD

During the financial year of 2024, Clean Up Australia volunteers continued to unite against litter by taking to their streets, beaches, parks, bushland and waterways to Clean Up.

While over a million joined us last year across 16,320 sites, the Litter Report FY24 is a snapshot of litter removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers across a portion of these sites during Clean Up Australia Day and Every Day Clean Ups. Across Queensland, the Report is based on the count of 78,252 litter items from 306 surveyed locations (91,609 items from 282 locations in FY23).

**QLD SITES REGISTERED:**  
3,177 (3,426 in FY23)

**QLD ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:**  
221,841 (214,665 in FY23)

**QLD ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS:**  
443,682 (429,330 in FY23)

## MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

	FY24 Count	%	Difference
Soft Plastic	27,417	35.0%	2.7%
Hard Plastic	19,208	24.5%	-4.8%
All Other Plastic	17,075	21.8%	1.1%
Metal	5,535	7.1%	1.7%
Paper/Cardboard	3,562	4.6%	-0.8%
Glass	2,457	3.1%	-1.0%
Miscellaneous	1,321	1.7%	0.6%
Rubber	843	1.1%	0.5%
E-Waste	442	0.6%	0.0%
Wood	392	0.5%	0.0%

## NOTABLE % CHANGES FROM FY23

↑ Increases:	↓ Decreases:	Unchanged:
Soft Plastic 2.7%	Hard Plastic 4.8%	Rubber
All Other Plastic 1.1%	Glass 1.0%	E-Waste
Metal 1.7%	Paper/Cardboard 0.8%	Wood
Miscellaneous 0.6%		

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

Grouped Items	FY24 Count	%	Difference
Soft Plastics	27,417	35.0%	5.7%
Non-Food Packaging	21,164	27.0%	-3.2%
Beverage Containers	10,892	13.9%	2.4%
Food Packaging	9,346	11.9%	-6.6%
Household Items	4,298	5.5%	2.6%
Beverage Litter	2,698	3.4%	-0.2%
Construction Materials	704	0.9%	0.0%
Clothing	558	0.7%	-0.2%
E-Waste	442	0.6%	0.1%
Toys & Sporting Equipment	420	0.5%	-0.2%

### NOTABLE CHANGES

The order of the top six grouped items has changed from FY23 to FY24 with soft plastics moving to first position with an increase of 5.7%, with non-food packaging moving to second position with a decrease of 3.2%. Soft plastics in QLD are a problematic litter item, with reported levels 3.2% higher proportionally than the national average. It will be interesting to note whether soft plastics recycling trials which began in QLD in 2024 decrease soft plastic litter levels in future. Beverage containers moved from fourth to third position increasing by 2.4% and overtaking household items.

All other items show minimal percentage changes over FY23.

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

Individual Items	FY24 Count	%	Difference
Soft Plastics – packets, wrappers	20,846	26.6%	-2.0%
Cigarette Butts	12,531	16.0%	-0.9%
Plastic Bags – food, retail, garbage	6,234	8.0%	7.2%
Plastic Beverage Bottles	4,699	6.0%	0.5%
Aluminium Beverage Cans	3,958	5.1%	0.8%
Plastic Food Containers & Utensils	3,025	3.9%	-7.4%
Plastic Fragments > 5mm	2,993	3.8%	-0.7%
Takeaway Coffee Cups	2,100	2.7%	0.4%
Plastic Straws	1,971	2.5%	-0.6%
Other Hard Plastics	1,916	2.4%	1.7%

### NOTABLE CHANGES

In FY24 soft plastics are still the most reported item in QLD but show a decrease of 2%. Cigarette butts remain in second position in the individual items list with a small decrease of 0.9%. Of note we have seen a significant increase by 7.2% in the number of plastic bags reported, although light plastic bags with handles and thick plastic bags with handles are banned in QLD as of 2022 and 2023 respectively.

There has been a large decrease by 7.4% in plastic takeaway food containers reported and other single-use items such as cutlery, which was banned in QLD in 2021. Plastic straws have also seen a decrease which may reflect the phase out of straws in QLD since 2021.

## LITTER DISTRIBUTION BY SITE TYPE

QLD	Number of sites	% of total litter count
Beach/Coastal Area	48	24.5%
Park	98	20.8%
River/Creek	40	15.2%
Footpath	41	12.4%
School Grounds/Campus	20	8.0%
Roadside	28	6.3%
Other	8	5.9%
Public Bushland	16	5.3%
Outdoor Public Transport	2	0.9%
Shops/Malls	2	0.4%
National Park	2	0.2%
Dive Site	1	0.1%