

LITTER REPORT FY24 TAS

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 Tasmania, the Report is based on the count of 16,388 litter items from 40 surveyed locations (22,378 items from 51 locations in FY23).

TAS SITES REGISTERED:

453 (515 in FY23)

TAS ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:

14,066 (24,225 in FY23)

TAS ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS:

28,132 (48,450 in FY23)

MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

	FY24 Count	%	Difference
All Other Plastic	6,091	37.2%	25.5%
Soft Plastic	3,434	21.0%	-27.4%
Hard Plastic	2,621	16.0%	-2.8%
Metal	2,130	13.0%	0.2%
Glass	990	6.0%	1.6%
Miscellaneous	497	3.0%	2.7%
Paper/Cardboard	414	2.5%	-0.2%
Rubber	127	0.8%	0.3%
E-Waste	51	0.3%	0.1%
Wood	33	0.2%	0.0%

NOTABLE % CHANGES FROM 2022

↑ Increases:	↓ Decreases:	Unchanged:
All Other Plastics 25.5%	Soft Plastic 27.4%	Metal
Miscellaneous 2.7%	Hard Plastic 2.8%	Paper/Cardboard
Glass 1.6%		Rubber
		E-Waste
		Wood

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

Grouped Items	FY24 Count	%	Difference
Non-Food Packaging	7,428	45.3%	26.3%
Soft Plastics	3,434	21.0%	-27.4%
Beverage Containers	3,319	20.3%	0.3%
Food Packaging	989	6.0%	-1.1%
Household Items	593	3.6%	2.3%
Beverage Litter	291	1.8%	0.0%
Clothing	124	0.8%	0.5%
Construction Materials	80	0.5%	0.1%
E-Waste	51	0.3%	0.1%
Sanitary Items	42	0.3%	-0.3%

NOTABLE CHANGES

There are some notable changes in the top 3 grouped items when compared with FY23. Non-food packaging has moved from third position to first position with a 26.3% increase, influenced by the dramatic increase in cigarette butt counts which are included in this category. Non-food packaging further includes plastic fragments, bags and boxes. Non-food packaging in Tasmania as a proportion of total litter surveyed sits 14.9% above the national average, with Tasmania, WA and NSW the only states reporting higher levels of non-food packaging than soft plastics.

Soft plastics have moved to second place with a 27.4% decrease. This could be due to collector efforts focused on other areas. Beverage containers moved from second to third position. Food packaging is still an issue but has seen a small reduction of 1.1% in FY24.

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
Cigarette Butts	5,612	34.2%	23.8%
Soft Plastics – packets, wrappers	2,866	17.5%	-30.8%
Aluminium Beverage Cans	1,853	11.3%	0.0%
Plastic Fragments > 5mm	713	4.4%	2.2%
Plastic Beverage Bottles	678	4.1%	-3.2%
Glass Beverage Bottles	672	4.1%	3.0%
Plastic Bags – food, retail, garbage	548	3.3%	3.1%
Plastic Food Containers & Utensils	413	2.5%	-0.3%
Miscellaneous Material Items	309	1.9%	1.6%
Paper Items	275	1.7%	-0.1%

NOTABLE CHANGES

Cigarette butts moved from third position in FY23 to first position in FY24 with a large increase of 23.8%. Reported levels of cigarette butts in Tasmania are proportionally 14.1% above nationally reported levels. Tasmania, NSW and ACT are the only states reporting higher levels of cigarette butts than soft plastic wrappers. There is a need for increased behavioural campaigns to decrease cigarette butt littering. Soft plastics counts reduced by 30.8% in comparison to last year and moved from first to second place in the individual items list. There is a need for an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme nationwide for soft plastics.

In FY24 straws have dropped off the top 10 individual items list in Tasmania from ninth place in FY23. This may reflect the phase out of plastic straws in Hobart since 2021, although Tasmania remains one of only two states who are yet to fully implement plastic straw bans statewide.

All other items show minimal percentage changes over FY23.

LITTER DISTRIBUTION BY SITE TYPE

TAS	Number of sites	% of total litter count
Beach/Coastal Area	16	51.1%
Other	3	18.0%
Park	4	11.2%
Roadside	5	5.6%
School Grounds/Campus	3	4.7%
Footpath	3	3.6%
River/Creek	3	3.4%
Public Bushland	3	2.5%