

LITTER REPORT FY23 TAS

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 Tasmania, the Report is based on the count of 22,378 items from 51 surveyed locations (15,408 items from 46 locations in 2022).

TAS SITES REGISTERED:

515 (358 in 2022)

TAS ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:

24,225 (21,886 in 2022)

TAS ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS:

48,450 (43,772 in 2022)

MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

	FY23 Count	%
Soft Plastics	10,826	48.4%
Hard Plastics	4,207	18.8%
Metal	2,856	12.8%
All Other Plastics	2,617	11.7%
Glass	988	4.4%
Paper/Cardboard	613	2.7%
Rubber	115	0.5%
Miscellaneous	64	0.3%
Wood	48	0.2%
E-Waste	44	0.2%
	22,378	100.0%

NOTABLE % CHANGES FROM 2022

↑ Increases:	↓ Decreases:	Unchanged:
Soft Plastics 28.6%	Hard Plastics 4.6%	Rubber
	Metal 0.7%	Wood
	All Other Plastics 16.6%	E-Waste
	Glass 2.4%	
	Paper/Cardboard 2.1%	
	Miscellaneous 1.6%	

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

Grouped Items	FY23 Count	%
Soft Plastics	10,826	48.4%
Beverage Containers	4,476	20.0%
Non-Food Packaging	4,259	19.0%
Food Packaging	1,604	7.2%
Beverage Litter	405	1.8%
Household Items	304	1.4%
Sanitary Items	123	0.5%
Toys & Sporting Equipment	101	0.5%
Automotive Items	101	0.5%
Construction Materials	84	0.4%

NOTABLE CHANGES

There are some changes in the top 10 grouped items when compared with 2022. Soft plastics moved from third to first place with an increase of 28.3%, non-food packaging moved from first to third place with a reduction of 10%, beverage containers remained in second place with a reduction of 6%. Beverage litter, household items and construction materials all reduced by around 2%.

As a proportion of total litter, Tasmania is the state with the highest percentage of reported soft plastics, at a whopping 48.4%. The increase in reported soft plastics may have been influenced by the collapse of REDcycle in November 2022. It is not clear whether volunteers in Tasmania have further focused their collection efforts on smaller pieces of soft plastics in their precious environment, as indicated by the increase in soft plastic pieces in the individual items list below.

Sanitary items also decreased by 1.6%, reflecting a reduction in the number of face masks reported.

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	10,403	46.5%
Aluminium Beverage Cans	2,532	11.3%
Cigarette Butts	2,342	10.5%
Plastic Beverage Bottles (single-use)	1,590	7.1%
Glass Pieces	662	3.0%
Takeaway Coffee Cups	510	2.3%
Pieces of Plastic	475	2.1%
Takeaway Food Containers	376	1.7%
Straws	311	1.4%
Cutlery/utensils/plates (single-use)	264	1.2%

NOTABLE CHANGES

The top 10 individual items remain mostly consistent with 2022, with the exception of paper items no longer making the top 10, having been replaced by single-use cutlery, utensils and plates. Soft plastic pieces moved into first place showing an increase of 29% over 2022, replacing cigarette butts. The good news is that cigarette butts reduced by 10% from 2022. Aluminium beverage cans moved from fourth to second place with an increase of 3%.

Other good signs include decreases in reported levels of single-use plastic beverage bottles, straws and fast-food takeaway containers.

LITTER DISTRIBUTION BY SITE TYPE

TAS	Number of sites	% of total litter count
Coastal/Beach	17	55.8%
Footpath	3	2.9%
Park	7	6.8%
Public Bushland	5	10.3%
River/Creek	4	3.5%
Roadway	12	19.5%
School Grounds	3	1.3%