

# FY25 LITTER REPORT – SA

Over a million volunteers joined us across 12,242 Clean Up events nationally in FY25. The Litter Report FY25 is a snapshot of litter removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers across a portion of these sites during Clean Up Australia Day, the Great Spring Clean Up and Every Day Clean Ups. Across South Australia, the Report is based on a count of litter items from 90 surveyed locations (114 locations in FY24).

**63,132**

EST. VOLUNTEERS  
(68,910 IN FY24)

**126,264**

EST. VOLUNTEER HOURS  
(137,820 IN FY24)

**925**

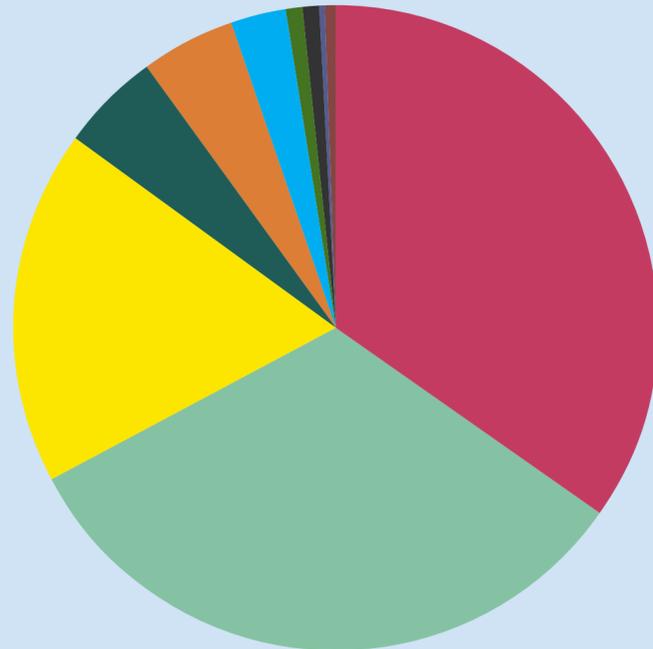
\*EVENTS REGISTERED  
(898 IN FY24)

\*FY24 participation figures exclude Drumstick event registrations for comparison purposes.

## MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

NATIONAL	FY25	FY24	DIFF.
ALL OTHER PLASTIC	34.8%	21.6%	13.2%
SOFT PLASTIC	32.6%	37.1%	-4.5%
HARD PLASTIC	17.6%	23.0%	-5.4%
GLASS	5.0%	3.4%	1.6%
METAL	4.8%	6.6%	-1.8%
PAPER/CARDBOARD	2.9%	4.0%	-1.1%
MISCELLANEOUS	0.8%	2.0%	-1.2%
RUBBER	0.7%	0.8%	0.0%
E-WASTE	0.5%	1.0%	-0.5%
WOOD	0.3%	0.5%	-0.2%

Plastics represent 85.0% of all counted litter (81.7% in FY24).



### NOTABLE CHANGES

#### ↑ INCREASE

All Other Plastics 13.2%  
Glass 1.6%

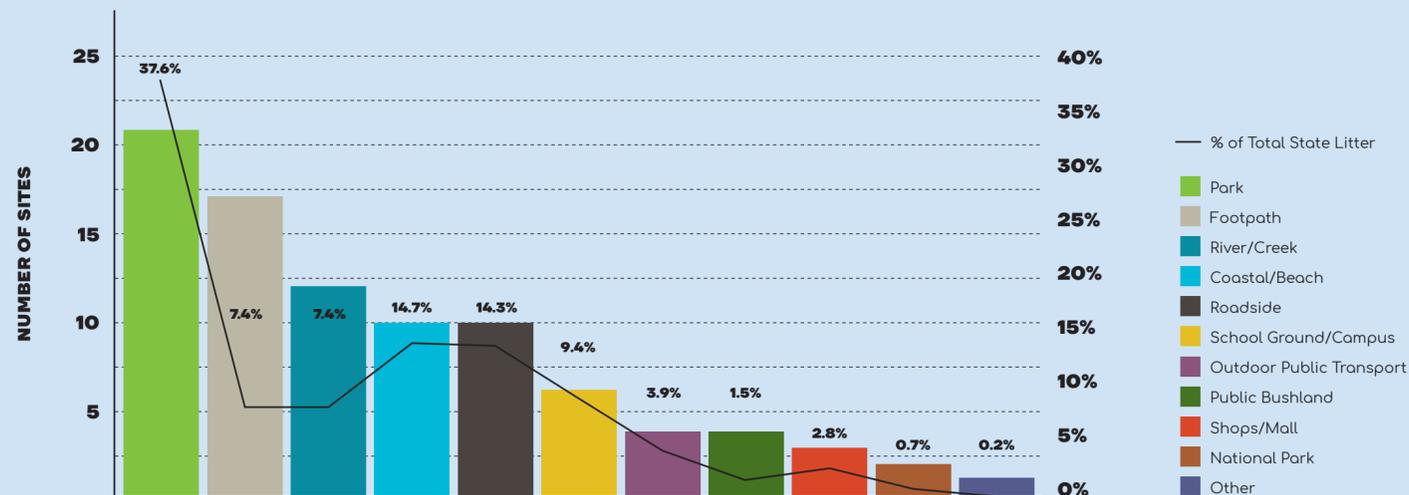
#### ↓ DECREASE

Soft Plastic 4.5%  
Hard Plastic 5.4%  
Metal 1.8%  
Paper/Cardboard 1.1%  
Miscellaneous 1.2%  
E-Waste 0.5%

#### — UNCHANGED

Rubber  
Wood

## LITTER DISTRIBUTION BY SITE TYPE



\*Small discrepancies in percentages are due to rounding errors.

During the financial year of 2025, Clean Up Australia volunteers continued to unite against litter by taking to their streets, beaches, parks, bushland and waterways to Clean Up.



## TOP 10 LITTER CATEGORIES AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL LITTER SURVEYED

RANK	CATEGORY	FY25	FY24	DIFF.
1	NON-FOOD PACKAGING	38.0%	26.8%	11.2%
2	SOFT PLASTICS	32.6%	37.1%	-4.5%
3	BEVERAGE CONTAINERS	11.0%	10.7%	0.4%
4	FOOD PACKAGING	10.8%	15.0%	-4.2%
5	HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	2.9%	4.0%	-1.1%
6	BEVERAGE LITTER	2.8%	2.9%	-0.1%
7	CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS	0.5%	1.1%	-0.5%
8	E-WASTE	0.5%	1.0%	-0.5%
9	CLOTHING	0.5%	0.5%	-0.1%
10	SANITARY ITEMS	0.2%	0.7%	-0.4%

### NOTABLE CHANGES

Non-food packaging has moved into first place as the most collected category of litter in SA in FY25 with an increase of 11.2%, reflecting 38.0% of the total litter count. This is likely due to the high proportion of cigarette butts counted in the state. Soft plastics sit in second place, representing 32.6% of the overall litter count.

Beverage containers have moved from fourth to third place with a growth of 0.4% from FY24, now representing 11.0% of all litter counts. SA has had an effective Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) in place since 1977. Proposed reforms to the scheme were made in 2024, with SA committing to expanding its CDS to include glass wine and spirit bottles by late-2027, which could lead to decreases in beverage containers found as litter in future.

Packaging overall (non-food, beverage containers and food) represents 59.8% of all litter reported in the state throughout FY25. Urgent regulatory reforms are needed to effectively manage packaging waste.

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

RANK	ITEM	FY25	FY24	DIFF.
1	CIGARETTE BUTTS	29.9%	15.7%	14.2%
2	SOFT PLASTICS – PACKETS, WRAPPERS	21.5%	27.6%	-6.1%
3	PLASTIC BAGS – FOOD, RETAIL, GARBAGE	9.6%	9.2%	0.4%
4	GLASS BEVERAGE BOTTLES	4.4%	2.0%	2.4%
5	PLASTIC FOOD CONTAINERS & UTENSILS	3.4%	7.1%	-3.7%
6	ALUMINIUM BEVERAGE CANS	3.1%	4.5%	-1.3%
7	HARD PLASTIC FRAGMENTS > 5MM	2.9%	3.3%	-0.4%
8	PLASTIC BEVERAGE BOTTLES	2.8%	2.0%	-0.7%
9	TAKEAWAY COFFEE CUPS	2.5%	3.1%	-0.6%
10	PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS	2.3%	1.0%	1.3%

### NOTABLE CHANGES

Cigarette butts are the most littered item in SA, highlighting the severity of the cigarette butt litter problem. Proportionally they have increased by 14.2% from FY24. Soft plastics packets and wrappers have moved to second position from FY24, and represent 21.5% of all litter reported, having decreased by 6.1%. With the commencement of the national voluntary soft plastics scheme in December 2025, soft plastics as a percentage of overall litter counts could continue to decrease in future.

Plastic food containers and utensils have decreased by 3.7% from FY24. SA (alongside WA) phased out most single-use plastic takeaway food containers from September 2024; this may be positively impacting litter levels. Despite bans on lightweight and heavyweight plastic bags, they represent 9.6% of all counted litter in SA FY25. Nevertheless, SA is leading the way in this area, having banned plastic produce bags for fruit and vegetables since September 2024, as well as soy sauce fish in 2025. CUA supports a shift to reusables in the state for both produce bags and soy sauce, rather than reverting to compostable bags or soy sauce sachets. Phased out since 2021, plastic straws were last seen on the individual items list in SA in FY24, when they represented 1.8% of counted litter.