

FY25 LITTER REPORT – NATIONAL

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 Australia, the Report is based on a count of litter items from 1,358 surveyed locations (1,351 locations in FY24).

1,030,088
EST. VOLUNTEERS
(1,060,103 IN FY24)

2,060,176
EST. VOLUNTEER HOURS
(2,120,206 IN FY24)

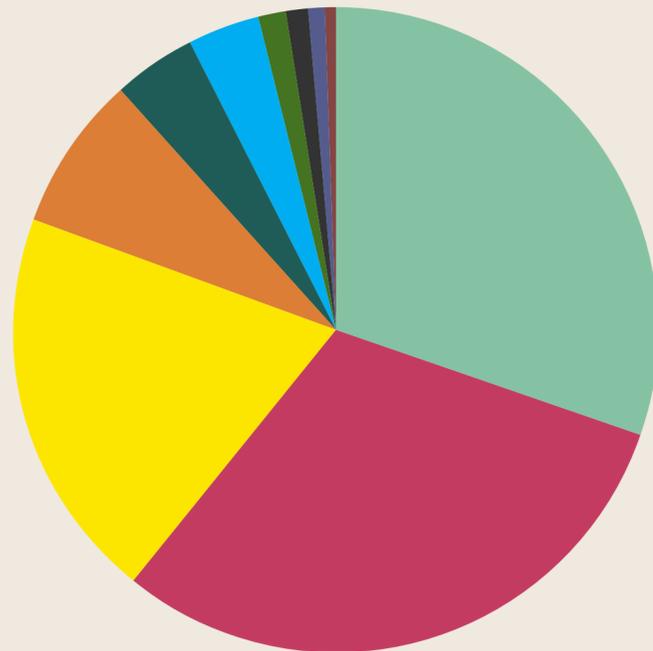
12,242
EVENTS REGISTERED
(12,402 IN FY24)

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

MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

NATIONAL	FY25	FY24	DIFF.
SOFT PLASTIC	30.5%	31.8%	-1.3%
ALL OTHER PLASTIC	30.5%	25.5%	5.0%
HARD PLASTIC	19.8%	23.4%	-3.6%
METAL	7.6%	7.6%	-0.1%
GLASS	4.3%	4.0%	0.3%
PAPER/CARDBOARD	3.5%	4.0%	-0.5%
MISCELLANEOUS	1.4%	1.6%	-0.2%
RUBBER	1.1%	0.8%	0.2%
E-WASTE	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%
WOOD	0.5%	0.4%	0.1%

Plastics represent 80.8% of all counted litter (80.7% in FY24).



NOTABLE CHANGES

INCREASE

All Other Plastic

DECREASE

Soft Plastic
Hard Plastic
Paper/Cardboard

UNCHANGED

Metal
Glass
Miscellaneous
Rubber
E-Waste
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	31.7%	30.4%	1.3%
2	SOFT PLASTICS	30.5%	31.8%	-1.3%
3	BEVERAGE CONTAINERS	14.6%	15.0%	-0.3%
4	FOOD PACKAGING	13.2%	12.5%	0.7%
5	HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	3.6%	4.5%	-0.8%
6	BEVERAGE LITTER	3.1%	2.9%	0.2%
7	CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS	0.9%	0.7%	0.2%
8	E-WASTE	0.8%	0.8%	0.0%
9	CLOTHING	0.7%	0.5%	0.1%
10	TOYS & SPORTING EQUIPMENT	0.4%	0.3%	0.1%

NOTABLE CHANGES

Non-food packaging has moved into first position, representing 31.7% of all counted litter with an increase of 1.3%. This category includes boxes, bags and cigarette butts. Soft plastics in second position represent 30.5% of all counted litter, highlighting the need for reduction and reuse efforts to stem soft plastic waste at the source, as well as scaled recollection and recycling. With the commencement of the national voluntary soft plastics scheme in December 2025, soft plastics as a percentage of overall litter counts could decrease in future.

Packaging (non-food, beverage containers and food) is a pressing challenge in the Australian litter landscape, representing 59.5% of all reported litter during the year. Urgent regulatory reforms are needed to effectively manage packaging waste. Beverage containers represent 14.6% of all counted litter. With operational Container Deposit Schemes now in all states and territories, beverage containers represent an opportunity to decrease litter levels across the country.

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

RANK	ITEM	FY25	FY24	DIFF.
1	CIGARETTE BUTTS	23.6%	20.1%	3.5%
2	SOFT PLASTICS – PACKETS, WRAPPERS	18.6%	24.6%	-6.0%
3	PLASTIC BAGS – FOOD, RETAIL, GARBAGE	8.7%	6.9%	1.8%
4	ALUMINIUM BEVERAGE CANS	5.6%	5.9%	-0.3%
5	PLASTIC BEVERAGE BOTTLES	4.8%	5.3%	-0.5%
6	TAKEAWAY COFFEE CUPS	4.3%	2.8%	1.5%
7	PLASTIC FOOD CONTAINERS & UTENSILS	4.1%	5.0%	-0.8%
8	GLASS BEVERAGE BOTTLES	3.4%	2.9%	0.5%
9	HARD PLASTIC FRAGMENTS > 5MM	2.7%	4.5%	-1.8%
10	OTHER SOFT PLASTICS	2.5%	2.3%	0.3%

NOTABLE CHANGES

Cigarette butts are the most littered item in Australia, representing 23.6% of all counted litter and increasing by 3.5% from FY24, highlighting the severity of the butt litter problem. Clean Up Australia supports inclusion of all plastic cigarette filters, including "bioplastic" or "compostable" plastic filters, as an item for regulation in the Global Plastics Treaty.

Soft plastics packets are in second position, representing 18.6% of all counted litter. Plastic bags represent 8.7% of all counted litter and are a continual litter challenge, despite lightweight plastic bags now phased out across Australia. Heavyweight bags have been phased out in WA, ACT and SA, with NSW, NT and TAS considering future bans. Takeaway coffee cups as a proportion of total litter counts increased from 2.8% in FY24 to 4.3% in FY25. This form of litter and waste is easily preventable by using a reusable cup. Plastic takeaway food containers including utensils are a consistently present litter item in the environment, representing 4.1% of all litter reported in FY25. SA and WA were the first states to implement bans on single-use plastic takeaway food containers which were phased out from September 2024. NSW and TAS are set to roll out their bans in the near future. With plastic straws phased out across the country, barring the NT and TAS, straws are no longer in the top 10 individual items list. In FY25, straws represent 2.1% of the overall litter count. The last time straws were in the top 10 was in FY23, representing 3.3% of the overall litter count.