

# FY25 LITTER REPORT – QLD

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 Queensland, the Report is based on a count of litter items from 250 surveyed locations (306 locations in FY24).

**232,356**  
EST. VOLUNTEERS  
(218,193 IN FY24)

**464,712**  
EST. VOLUNTEER HOURS  
(436,386 IN FY24)

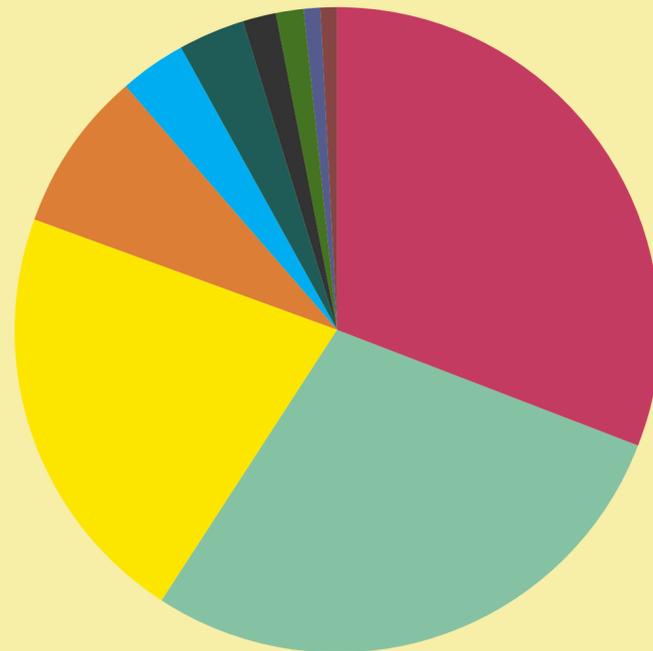
**2417**  
\*EVENTS REGISTERED  
(2,349 IN FY24)

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

## MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

NATIONAL	FY25	FY24	DIFF.
<b>ALL OTHER PLASTIC</b>	31.1%	21.8%	9.2%
<b>SOFT PLASTIC</b>	28.3%	35.0%	-6.7%
<b>HARD PLASTIC</b>	21.2%	24.5%	-3.3%
<b>METAL</b>	8.1%	7.1%	1.0%
<b>PAPER/CARDBOARD</b>	3.5%	4.6%	-1.1%
<b>GLASS</b>	3.1%	3.1%	0.0%
<b>RUBBER</b>	1.8%	1.1%	0.7%
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>	1.4%	1.7%	-0.3%
<b>E-WASTE</b>	0.9%	0.6%	0.3%
<b>WOOD</b>	0.6%	0.5%	0.1%

Plastics represent 80.6% of all counted litter (81.3% in FY24).



### NOTABLE CHANGES

#### ↑ INCREASE

All Other Plastic 9.2%  
Metal 1.0%  
Rubber 0.7%

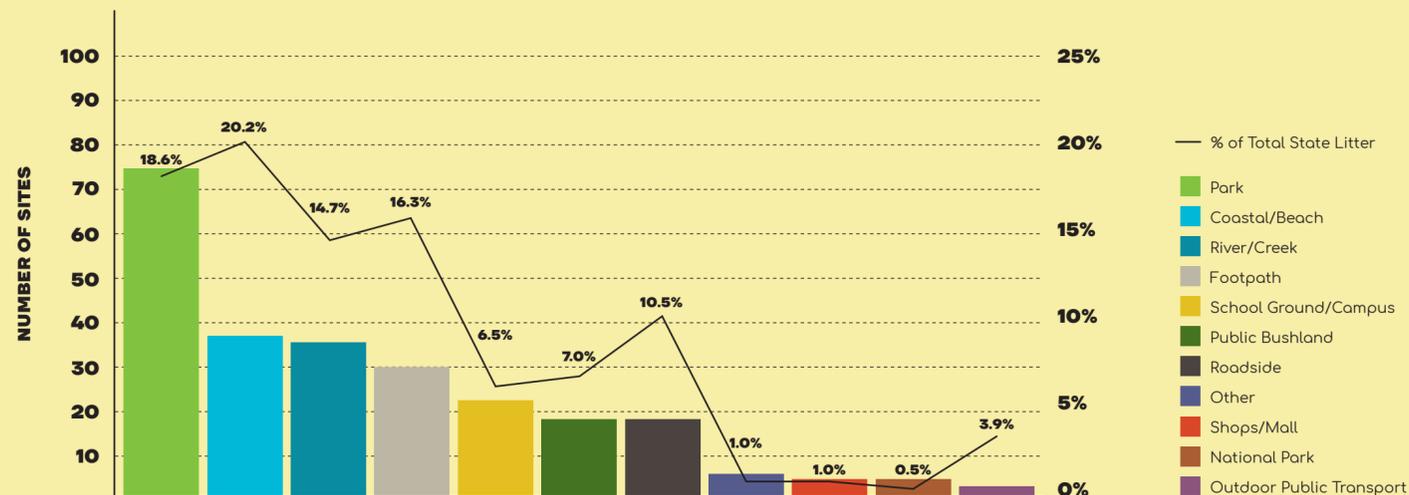
#### ↓ DECREASE

Soft Plastic 6.7%  
Hard Plastic 3.3%  
Paper/Cardboard 1.1%

#### — UNCHANGED

Glass  
E-Waste  
Miscellaneous  
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	<b>NON-FOOD PACKAGING</b>	36.8%	27.0%	9.8%
2	<b>SOFT PLASTICS</b>	28.3%	35.0%	-6.7%
3	<b>BEVERAGE CONTAINERS</b>	13.8%	13.9%	-0.1%
4	<b>FOOD PACKAGING</b>	10.9%	11.9%	-1.0%
5	<b>HOUSEHOLD ITEMS</b>	3.8%	5.5%	-1.7%
6	<b>BEVERAGE LITTER</b>	2.7%	3.4%	-0.7%
7	<b>CLOTHING</b>	1.1%	0.7%	0.4%
8	<b>CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS</b>	0.9%	0.9%	0.0%
9	<b>E-WASTE</b>	0.9%	0.6%	0.3%
10	<b>SANITARY ITEMS</b>	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%

### NOTABLE CHANGES

Non-food packaging has moved to first position from second position in FY24 with a notable increase of 9.8% to 36.8%, with soft plastics moving to second position with a decrease of 6.7% but representing 28.3% of litter. 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. Non-food packaging includes the highly problematic item cigarette butts.

Beverage containers continue to represent a large proportion of litter counted in QLD at 13.8%. In 2025, an extensive review of the QLD Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) found that improvements could be made to the scheme to increase return rates of beverage containers. Clean Up Australia supports an increase in the refund rate from 10c to 20c to keep up with inflation, and advocates for adding additional and more convenient return points.

Packaging overall (non-food, beverage containers and food) represents 61.5% 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	<b>CIGARETTE BUTTS</b>	25.8%	16.0%	9.8%
2	<b>SOFT PLASTICS – PACKETS, WRAPPERS</b>	17.3%	26.6%	-9.3%
3	<b>PLASTIC BAGS – FOOD, RETAIL, GARBAGE</b>	9.3%	8.0%	1.3%
4	<b>ALUMINIUM BEVERAGE CANS</b>	6.0%	5.1%	0.9%
5	<b>PLASTIC BEVERAGE BOTTLES</b>	4.5%	6.0%	-1.5%
6	<b>HARD PLASTIC FRAGMENTS &gt; 5MM</b>	4.1%	3.8%	0.3%
7	<b>PLASTIC FOOD CONTAINERS &amp; UTENSILS</b>	3.5%	3.9%	-0.3%
8	<b>NURDLES/MICROPLASTICS &lt; 5MM</b>	2.9%	1.6%	1.3%
9	<b>TAKEAWAY COFFEE CUPS</b>	2.7%	2.7%	0.0%
10	<b>GLASS BEVERAGE BOTTLES</b>	2.5%	2.0%	0.6%

### NOTABLE CHANGES

Cigarette butts are now the most reported litter item in QLD representing 25.8% of all litter counts in the state. Soft plastics packets and wrappers have moved to second position from FY24, and represent 17.3% of all litter reported, having decreased by 9.3%.

We have seen a slight increase of 1.3% in the number of plastic bags reported, although lightweight plastic bags with handles are banned in QLD as of 2022. Thicker heavyweight bags remain in circulation but are subject to strict conditions.

Hard plastic fragments and microplastics/nurdles together represent 7.0% of all counted litter. This kind of litter is extremely difficult to remove from the environment. With plastic straws phased out in QLD since 2021, straws are no longer in the top 10 individual items list, representing only 1.7% of litter reported. In FY24, straws were ninth on the list, representing 2.5% of litter reported.