

FY25 LITTER REPORT – VIC

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 Victoria, the Report is based on a count of litter items from 359 surveyed locations (304 locations in FY24).

238,375
EST. VOLUNTEERS
(216,805 IN FY24)

476,750
EST. VOLUNTEER HOURS
(433,610 IN FY24)

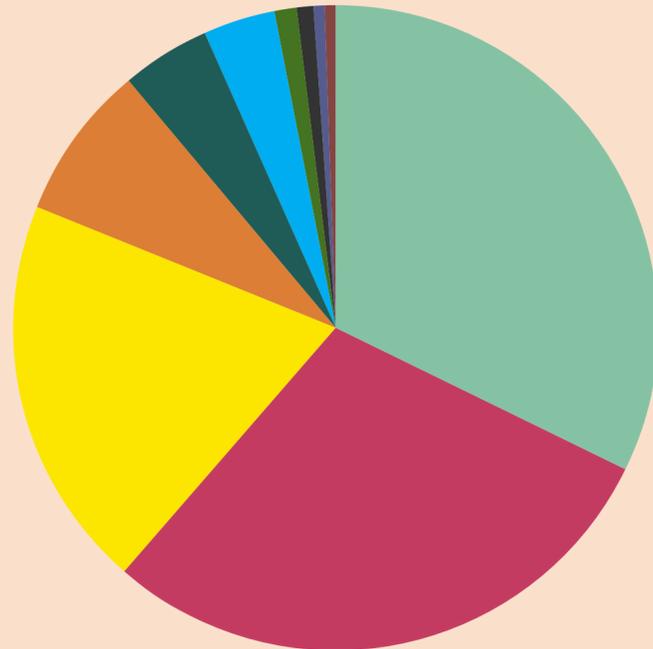
2,947
*EVENTS REGISTERED
(2,938 IN FY24)

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

MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

NATIONAL	FY25	FY24	DIFF.
SOFT PLASTIC	32.2%	35.2%	-2.9%
ALL OTHER PLASTIC	29.4%	24.8%	4.7%
HARD PLASTIC	19.5%	19.4%	0.1%
METAL	7.8%	8.1%	-0.4%
GLASS	4.5%	4.0%	0.5%
PAPER/CARDBOARD	3.6%	5.1%	-1.5%
MISCELLANEOUS	1.1%	1.6%	-0.5%
RUBBER	0.9%	0.7%	0.2%
E-WASTE	0.6%	0.6%	0.1%
WOOD	0.3%	0.5%	-0.1%

Plastics represent 81.1% of all counted litter (79.4% in FY24).



NOTABLE CHANGES

↑ INCREASE

All Other Plastics 4.7%
Glass 0.5%

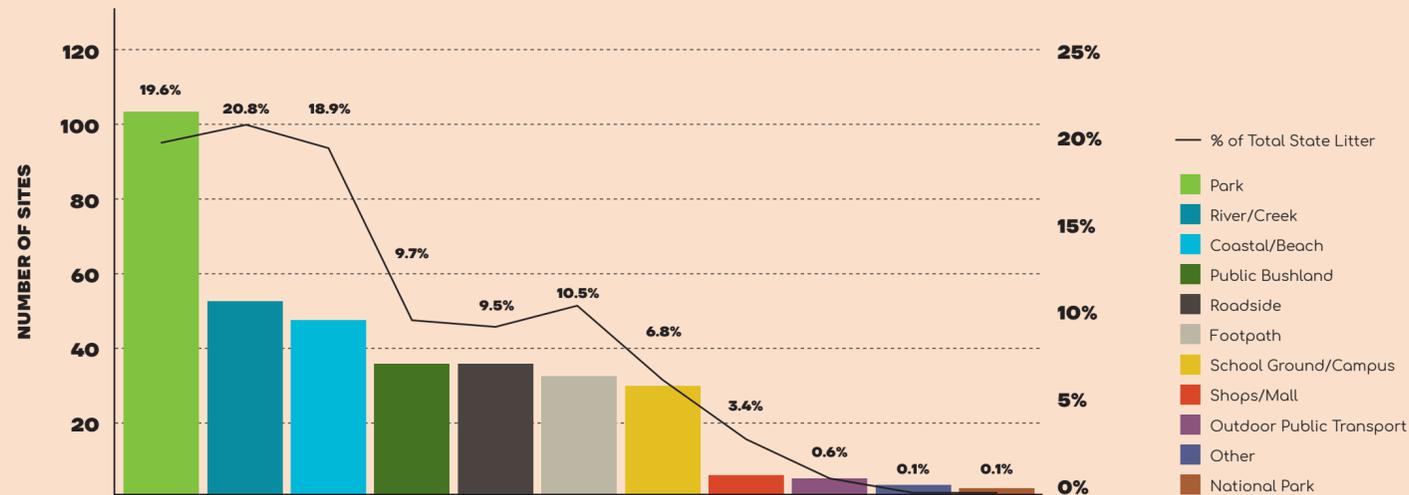
↓ DECREASE

Soft Plastic 2.9%
Paper/Cardboard 1.5%
Miscellaneous 0.5%

— UNCHANGED

Hard Plastic
Metal
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	SOFT PLASTICS	32.2%	35.2%	-2.9%
2	NON-FOOD PACKAGING	30.4%	27.5%	2.8%
3	BEVERAGE CONTAINERS	16.3%	16.3%	0.0%
4	FOOD PACKAGING	11.8%	11.6%	0.2%
5	HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	3.7%	4.4%	-0.7%
6	BEVERAGE LITTER	2.7%	2.7%	0.1%
7	CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS	1.2%	0.6%	0.5%
8	E-WASTE	0.6%	0.6%	0.1%
9	CLOTHING	0.5%	0.3%	0.1%
10	SANITARY ITEMS	0.3%	0.4%	-0.1%

NOTABLE CHANGES

The order of the top 10 grouped items has changed little since last year's survey with soft plastics, non-food packaging including cigarette butts and beverage containers leading counts. VIC is one of three states (alongside TAS and WA) in which soft plastic counts outweigh non-food packaging as a category. 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 but have only decreased by 2.9% from FY24.

Although VIC's Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) has been operating since November 2023, beverage container litter levels have remained on par with last year, representing 16.3% of all litter counts.

Packaging overall [non-food, beverage containers and food] represents 58.5% of all litter reported in the state throughout FY25. Urgent regulatory reforms are needed to effectively manage packaging waste. Sanitary items have moved from seventh to tenth place, decreasing by 0.1%.

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

RANK	ITEM	FY25	FY24	DIFF.
1	CIGARETTE BUTTS	23.4%	19.6%	3.8%
2	SOFT PLASTICS – PACKETS, WRAPPERS	20.3%	28.5%	-8.2%
3	PLASTIC BAGS – FOOD, RETAIL, GARBAGE	9.3%	6.2%	3.0%
4	ALUMINIUM BEVERAGE CANS	6.0%	6.5%	-0.4%
5	PLASTIC BEVERAGE BOTTLES	5.8%	5.8%	-0.1%
6	PLASTIC FOOD CONTAINERS & UTENSILS	4.1%	3.8%	0.3%
7	GLASS BEVERAGE BOTTLES	3.6%	3.0%	0.6%
8	TAKEAWAY COFFEE CUPS	3.4%	3.0%	0.4%
9	HARD PLASTIC FRAGMENTS > 5MM	2.3%	2.5%	-0.2%
10	PLASTIC STRAWS	2.0%	1.7%	0.3%

NOTABLE CHANGES

Cigarette butts are the most littered item in VIC, having moved into first position from second place in FY24, with an increase of 3.8%. Soft plastics packets and wrappers have dropped to second position with a decrease of 8.2%.

Plastic bags have moved into third position from fourth, with an increase of 3.0%, despite lightweight plastic bags banned in VIC since 2019. VIC has been slow to move on heavyweight plastic bags and has not indicated a date for phase-out. Aluminium beverage cans have slightly reduced by 0.4% from FY24, moving into fourth position from third. Plastic straws have moved into the top 10 individual items list, taking over from nurdles/microplastics. Plastic straws were banned in VIC in February 2023. They remain in the state's litter stream, highlighting the persistent nature of plastic litter in the environment.