

FY25 LITTER REPORT – WA

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 WA, the Report is based on a count of litter items from 121 surveyed locations (112 locations in FY24).

103,844
EST. VOLUNTEERS
(93,766 IN FY24)

207,688
EST. VOLUNTEER HOURS
(187,532 IN FY24)

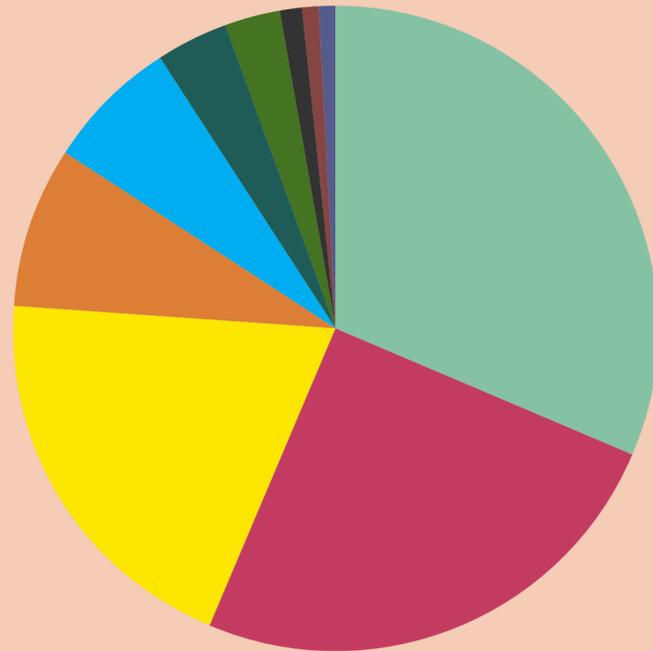
951
*EVENTS REGISTERED
(1,032 IN FY24)

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

MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

NATIONAL	FY25	FY24	DIFF.
SOFT PLASTIC	31.5%	30.1%	1.4%
ALL OTHER PLASTIC	25.0%	23.0%	2.0%
HARD PLASTIC	19.8%	21.6%	-1.8%
METAL	8.0%	7.4%	0.6%
PAPER/CARDBOARD	6.7%	7.9%	-1.2%
GLASS	3.5%	4.9%	-1.3%
MISCELLANEOUS	2.8%	3.2%	-0.4%
RUBBER	1.2%	1.1%	0.1%
WOOD	0.9%	0.2%	0.6%
E-WASTE	0.6%	0.6%	0.0%

Plastics represent 76.3% of all counted litter (74.7% in FY24).



NOTABLE CHANGES

↑ INCREASE

Soft Plastic 1.4%
All Other Plastic 2.0%
Metal 0.6%
Wood 0.6%

↓ DECREASE

Hard Plastic 1.8%
Paper/Cardboard 1.2%
Glass 1.3%

— UNCHANGED

Miscellaneous
Rubber
E-Waste

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	31.5%	30.1%	1.4%
2	NON-FOOD PACKAGING	29.2%	31.1%	-1.9%
3	FOOD PACKAGING	13.2%	10.8%	2.4%
4	BEVERAGE CONTAINERS	12.2%	12.4%	-0.2%
5	HOUSEHOLD ITEMS	6.1%	8.3%	-2.2%
6	BEVERAGE LITTER	3.7%	3.1%	0.6%
7	CLOTHING	1.3%	1.7%	-0.5%
8	CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS	1.2%	1.0%	0.2%
9	E-WASTE	0.6%	0.6%	0.0%
10	TOYS & SPORTING EQUIPMENT	0.6%	0.4%	0.2%

NOTABLE CHANGES

There are several changes in the order of categories from FY24 to FY25. Soft plastics have moved into first position with an increase of 1.4%. 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, including cigarette butts, bags and boxes has moved into second position, decreasing by 1.9%. Food packaging has moved into third position from fourth, with an increase of 2.4%. Packaging overall [non-food, beverage containers and food] represents 54.6% of all litter reported in the state throughout FY25. Urgent regulatory reforms are needed to effectively manage packaging waste.

Beverage containers are largely on par with FY24, registering a slight decrease of 0.2%. WA has committed to expanding its Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) to include glass wine and spirit bottles by mid-2026, which could impact beverage container litter levels in future. Toys and sporting equipment moved into the top 10 most reported categories, replacing Sanitary Items in 10th place and registering an increase of 0.2%.

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

RANK	ITEM	FY25	FY24	DIFF.
1	CIGARETTE BUTTS	20.6%	18.7%	1.9%
2	SOFT PLASTICS – PACKETS, WRAPPERS	19.9%	22.9%	-3.0%
3	PLASTIC BAGS – FOOD, RETAIL, GARBAGE	8.4%	7.0%	1.4%
4	ALUMINIUM BEVERAGE CANS	4.9%	4.6%	0.3%
5	PLASTIC FOOD CONTAINERS & UTENSILS	4.1%	3.5%	0.6%
6	PLASTIC BEVERAGE BOTTLES	3.7%	3.7%	0.0%
7	OTHER PAPER / CARDBOARD	3.2%	5.4%	-2.2%
8	HARD PLASTIC FRAGMENTS > 5MM	2.9%	7.6%	-4.7%
9	TAKEAWAY COFFEE CUPS	2.8%	2.7%	0.1%
10	PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS	2.6%	2.1%	0.5%

NOTABLE CHANGES

Cigarette butts are now the most counted litter item in WA with an increase of 1.9%. Cigarette butts leach harmful chemicals into their surroundings and are made of a plastic called cellulose acetate. Soft plastics packets and wrappers have moved into second position with a decrease of 3.0% but still represent 19.9% of all litter counted in the state. Plastic bags have moved into third position from fourth, representing 8.4% of all counted litter. From September 2025, WA has implemented a compostable design standard on produce and barrier bags. Phased out since 2022, plastic straws were last seen on the top 10 individual items list in WA in FY23, when they represented 2.9% of counted litter. In FY25 they represent 1.9% of counted litter.

Hard plastic fragments have dropped from third to eighth position with a decrease of 4.7%. Plastic food containers and utensils represent 4.1% of all litter counts, registering a slight increase of 0.6% from FY24. WA (alongside SA) was one of the first states to implement bans on single-use plastic takeaway food containers which were phased out from September 2024. The ban could result in decreased plastic food container litter in future. Clean Up Australia supports a greater transition to reusable packaging in WA rather than reliance on compostable items. Plastic bottle caps represent 2.6% of all counted litter in WA and have moved into the top 10 from FY24. There is currently no law in WA requiring plastic bottle caps to be tethered to bottles, however with NSW implementing this law from 2030, precedent is set for other states to follow.