LITTER REPORT FY25

WWW.CLEANUP.ORG.AU

Clean Up

CONTENTS

Data collated by Linda Boettcher
Report written by Lucia Moon

INTRODUCTION

Clean Up Australia celebrated 35 years in FY25, a milestone in which we recognised the achievements of our community of incredible volunteers who each year, don their gloves and head outside to pick up litter.

From humble beginnings as a local Clean Up event around Sydney Harbour in 1990, Clean Up Australia has grown into a national movement. In FY25, over 1 million volunteers around the country participated in a Clean Up. Clean Up Australia Day 2025 was our largest Clean Up ever, with over 800,000 volunteers taking part.

Every year, a proportion of these dedicated volunteers diligently count and log litter found at their Clean Up events. Data gathered from their End of Clean Up Reports feeds into our annual Litter Report, which since 1991 has been identifying trends in types and materials of litter found throughout Australia.

Clean Up Australia's Litter Report FY25 reveals that **plastics** continue to be the dominant litter type found in our streets and natural areas, representing 80.8% of all counted litter. The figure highlights the immense challenge we are facing with plastic waste, which manages to find its way into the Australian marine and land environment at the rate of 250 kilograms every *minute*.[1]

The Litter Report also highlights the number one collected litter item at Clean Up events this year – **cigarette butts,** representing 23.6% of all counted litter. Cigarette butts are made of a plastic called cellulose acetate. When littered in the environment, they shed microfibres, leach toxic waste and take up to 30 years to decompose.[2]

Other troubling trends revealed within the report include the ongoing problem of **soft plastics,** which as a category account for 30.5% of all litter reported. **Packaging** continues to be a persistent challenge, representing 59.5% of all reported litter during the year.

Alongside our community events, Clean Up Australia is pleased to have strengthened our efforts in litter and waste prevention this year. Key areas for advocacy throughout FY25 included pressing for urgently needed packaging reforms, progressing Australia's soft plastics stewardship and advocating for transparent and improved Container Deposit Schemes (CDSs) around the country. We have seen some great progress in these areas.

We were awarded a NSW EPA Waste and Sustainable Materials Strategy (WASM) grant and are incorporating litter and waste prevention targets into our organisational strategy and goals. Whether coffee cups, cigarette butts or soft plastics, there are many measures both legislative and behavioural that can be implemented to reduce waste and litter.

Data insights can help drive change. Clean Up Australia's annual Litter Report provides key insights that help inform public policy, industry practice, and community engagement. Each year we share our data with the wider community, as we progress our mission to inspire and mobilise communities to care for and protect our environment, eliminate litter, and end waste. By embracing the principles of a circular economy, we can keep valuable materials in use for longer and lessen our reliance on finite resources. Together, we can shift habits, reduce waste, and protect our natural spaces for generations to come.

OUR ANNUAL IMPACT

During the financial year of 2025, Clean Up Australia volunteers continued to unite against litter by taking to their streets, beaches, rivers, parklands and bush to Clean Up.

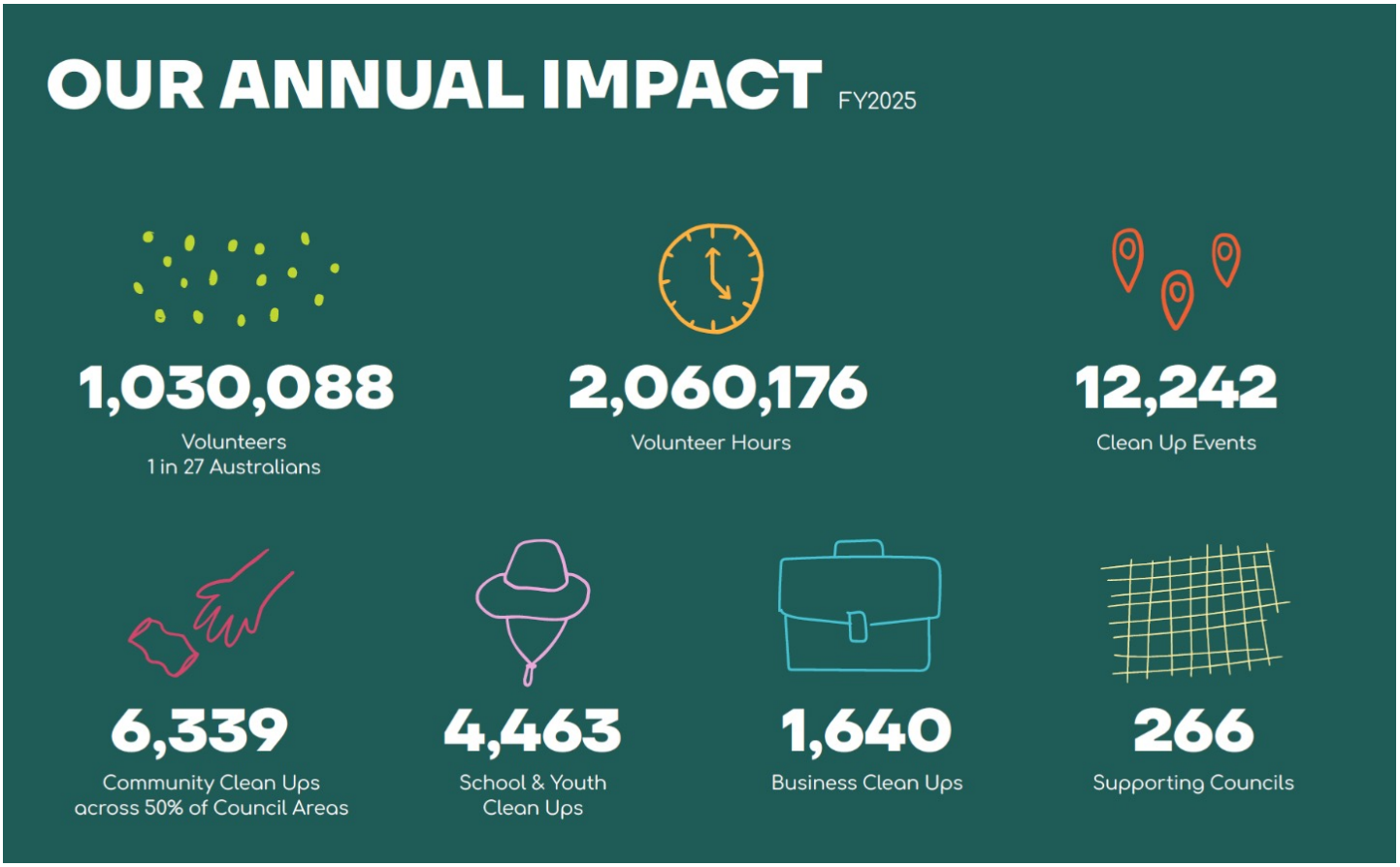
An estimated 1,030,088 volunteers joined 12,242 Clean Up events, donating around 2,060,176 hours of their time and effort across the country to remove accumulated litter, in a spectacular show of community action.

This impact was made possible thanks to the 266 Supporting Councils that assisted in disposing of collected litter, spreading the word about Clean Up activities and supporting local volunteers with extra Clean Up materials. Alongside them, the generous support of Clean Up Australia's corporate partners remains fundamental to delivering our national initiatives.

The cumulative result of this year's effort means that over the past 36 years, more than 23 million volunteers have donated more than 46 million hours to their local communities, removing hundreds of thousands of ute loads of litter from over 261,000 registered locations across the country.

Plastic ingestion has been documented in every family of marine mammal and seabird, and all seven species of sea turtles.[3] With plastic ingestion strongly linked to fatality in wildlife,[4] the need for Clean Ups in Australia remains as important as ever.

When combined with preventative efforts at the design, use and disposal stages, positive, practical Clean Up action and legislative and behavioural campaigns work together toward a cleaner and healthier environment.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

KEY POINTS

- Across the country, **plastics** continue to dominate as the material type most reported on surveyed Clean Up sites, representing **80.8%** of all counted litter this financial year (80.7% in FY24).

  > Plastic litter in the environment is linked to plastic production levels, with a study by CSIRO showing a 1% increase in plastic production leads to a 1% increase in plastic pollution, meaning unmanaged waste such as bottles in rivers and floating plastic in the oceans.[5]
  >
  > Australia's plastic consumption is increasing and will continue to increase unless action is taken to reduce plastics at the production and use levels. In the year 2000, Australia consumed 1.79 million tonnes of plastic. In 2024, this had risen to 3.97 million tonnes of plastic, a 122% increase.[6]
  >
  > Legislative changes to phase out single-use plastics and increase reuse systems, as well as individual actions such as carrying a reusable cup and eating-in, are both measures which help to reduce waste and litter.

- The top 3 counted **litter categories** at Clean Up Australia sites in FY25 are:
  1. **Non-food packaging** – boxes, bags, cigarette butts – representing **31.7%** of all counted litter (30.4% in FY24)
  2. **Soft plastics** – all, including plastic bags – representing **30.5%** of all counted litter (31.8% in FY24)
  3. **Beverage containers** – bottles, cans, cartons – representing **14.6%** of all counted litter (15.0% in FY24)

- The top 3 counted **litter items** at Clean Up Australia sites in FY25 are:
  1. **Cigarette butts** – representing **23.6%** of all counted litter (20.1% in FY24)
  2. **Soft plastics** – packets, wrappers – representing **18.6%** of all counted litter (24.6% in FY24)
  3. **Plastic bags** – food, retail, garbage – representing **8.7%** of all counted litter (6.9% in FY24)

- Representing a whopping **23.6%** of all counted litter, **cigarette butts** accumulate on land, in waterways and in the marine environment, shedding plastic microfibres and taking up to 30 years to decompose.[7]

  > It is estimated that up to 8.9 billion butts are littered in Australia every year.[8]
  >
  > Cigarette butts have been found in the stomachs of birds, turtles, whales and fish, where they affect digestion and potentially lead to poisoning or starvation.
  >
  > Cigarette butts leach a wide array of harmful chemicals into their surroundings, including nicotine, heavy metals including cadmium, mercury and lead, and other known carcinogens.[9,10]

PLASTIC REPRESENTED 80.8% OF ALL COUNTED LITTER IN FY25

THE AVERAGE AUSTRALIAN CONSUMER USES 146KG OF PACKAGING PER YEAR.

> "Cigarette filters made with plastic" are currently listed in the proposed draft text of the Global Plastics Treaty under Annex X, a category for items proposed for restriction, limitation or phase-out, on a voluntary basis by signatory countries.[11]
>
> Clean Up Australia supports **all** cigarette filters made with plastic to be listed in Annex Y of the treaty,[12] which would set them up for a mandatory ban, including any potential "bio" plastics or "compostable" plastics.
>
> Scheduled phase-out in the international Global Plastics Treaty would directly influence signatory states to take coordinated action on implementing national bans.

- As a percentage of types of litter, **soft plastics** represent **30.5%** of all counted litter in FY25 (31.8% in FY24). **Plastic bags** represent **8.7%** of all counted litter in FY25 (6.9% in FY24).

  > With the commencement of the voluntary Soft Plastics Stewardship Australia product stewardship scheme in December 2025, **soft plastics** as a percentage of overall litter could decrease in coming years.[13]

- **Hard plastics,** including plastic beverage bottles, take-away food containers and single-use cutlery and plates represent **19.8%** of all surveyed litter (23.4% in FY24).

  > Although hard plastics have high recyclability, consumer education to improve consumer recycling behaviour would increase recycling rates – and decrease litter – for these materials.[14]

- **Packaging** (non-food, beverage containers and food) is an urgent challenge in the Australian litter landscape, representing **59.5%** of all reported litter during the year (57.8% in FY24).

  > The average Australian consumer uses 146kg of packaging per year.[15]
  >
  > Packaging is a target area for Clean Up Australia in FY26. There is urgent need for national packaging reform to reduce production of single-use plastics and increase reliance on reusable alternatives.
  >
  > Clean Up Australia strongly supports the implementation of an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for packaging which would ensure producers and manufacturers are responsible for the packaging they place on the market. The scheme should reward good packaging design and recyclability, and include incentives for incorporating domestic recycled content, encouraging recapture and recycling of plastic and helping to keep it out of the environment.

- **Glass** reflects **4.3%** of the total litter count, a reduction of 0.3% from FY24 (4.0%).

  > Over the past 3 years, glass counts decreased as a percentage of overall litter (7.3% in 2022) and may reflect increased glass bottle returns via CDSs now nationwide, as well as decreased reliance on glass packaging as plastic usage increases.
  >
  > TAS implemented its scheme in mid-2025, representing the final piece in the puzzle in Australia's national network of CDSs.[16]

- **Beverage containers** represent **14.6%** of all counted litter (15.0% in FY24).

  > Beverage container counts have decreased by 0.4% from FY24.

> Beverage containers represent an opportunity to decrease litter levels across the country. With CDS now operational in all states and territories, access to return points with cash refunds has never been easier for consumers. We expect to see beverage container litter levels decrease in coming years.
>
> Clean Up Australia supports an increase in the refund rate from 10c to 20c or more, to maintain and grow the incentive to recycle within the community and keep up with inflation.
>
> We also advocate for increased access to return points, including Reverse Vending Machines (RVMs) in high footfall locations such as supermarkets and retail centres.

- **Wine bottles** represent **11.8%** of all counted glass in FY25 (13.4% in FY24).

> QLD was the first state to integrate glass wine and spirit bottles into its CDS in 2023. NSW, SA, WA, ACT and the NT have all committed to expanding their schemes to include these bottles,[17] with NT and WA expected to enact changes by mid-2026, and NSW, ACT and SA by late-2027.[18]
>
> NT legislation will expand further to include any beverage container up to 3 litres including plain milk.[19]

- **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 **plates and cutlery,** represent **4.1%** of all surveyed litter (5.0% in FY24).

> SA and WA are 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.[20]
>
> Nationally, all states except the NT and TAS have banned single-use plastic cutlery and plates. The NT and TAS are consulting on this issue.[21]

- 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.
- **Vapes** were collected from **33.9% of sites** surveyed in FY25 (30.1% of sites in FY24, 22.4% in FY23, 10.4% of sites in 2022).

> Over 3 years the number of Clean Up sites reporting vapes as litter has risen by 23.5%.
>
> Despite new regulations on the import and selling of vapes, vapes are still in circulation and are damaging to the environment.
>
> Vapes are problematic as litter and in landfill as they contain a battery, electronic circuitry, hazardous chemicals and plastic.
>
> There is pressing need for a nationwide safe system for the disposal of vapes.

- **Batteries** were found at **23.3% of sites** surveyed in FY25 (20.2% of sites in FY24).

BALLOONS REPRESENT 51.6% OF ALL RUBBER ITEMS FOUND

> Batteries in landfill and as litter release toxins into the environment, including heavy metals such as nickel, cadmium and mercury that pollute soil and groundwater.
>
> Batteries should never be put in bins as they can cause fires when under compression.[22] They must be disposed of at authorised local drop-off points.

- Of all litter items, **polystyrene** packaging accounts for 2.9% (2.2% in FY24).

> Polystyrene takeaway containers are banned in all states apart from the NT and TAS.[23]

- **Balloons** represent 51.6% – the overwhelming majority – of all **rubber** items found.

> Balloons are the highest risk marine debris item for wildlife and are 32 times more likely to kill seabirds than hard plastic when ingested.[24]
>
> Lighter-than-air balloon releases are banned in WA, TAS and QLD and will be banned in NSW from 2026.[25]

- While a small portion of the overall litter count, **plastic bottle caps** represent 8.3% of all reported **hard plastics.**

> Mandating tethered lids is an effective measure for litter prevention.[26]
>
> NSW will introduce tethered lids for plastic bottles by 2030.[27] Clean Up Australia encourages all states and territories to take similar action.

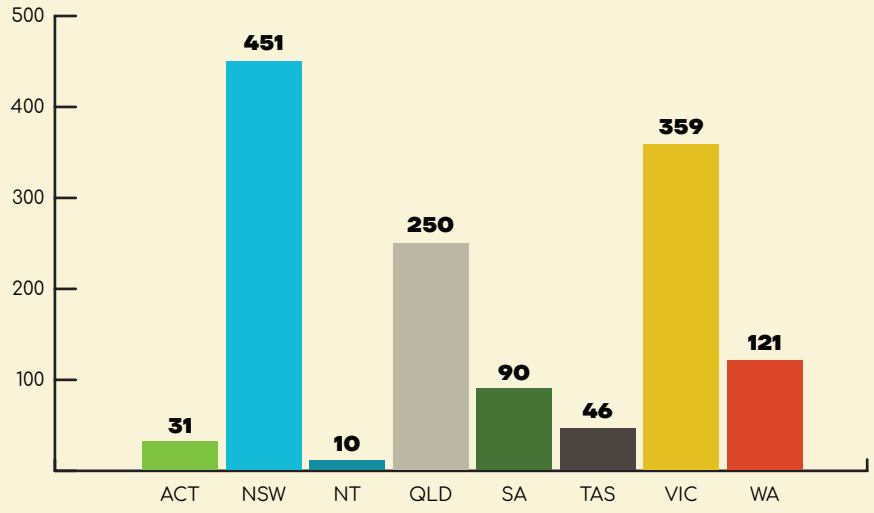
METHODOLOGY

In FY25, an estimated 1,030,088 volunteers registered 12,242 Clean Up events across the nation. The figures presented in the Litter Report FY25 are based on a **sample** of Clean Up sites where data is collected by our dedicated volunteers within the End of Clean Up Report — our litter survey.

AT A GLANCE

- **1,358** End of Clean Up Reports analysed for the Litter Report FY25
- **5,460** bags of litter analysed on End of Clean Up Reports
- **79** surveyed types of litter items

RETURNED SURVEYS BY STATE



THE END OF CLEAN UP REPORT

- Issued within Clean Up kits or available online.
- Volunteers either complete their End of Clean Up Report on paper, and email or post it to the Clean Up Australia office where it is entered online, or it is entered online directly by volunteers.

The **End of Clean Up Report** is divided into two sections: a Quick Count and the full Litter Survey.

Quick Count

The Quick Count includes 14 priority items which are commonly found as litter in the environment. These litter items also represent key waste areas for targeting, where reforms in policy could directly influence waste recovery and litter levels in the environment.

If volunteers are unable to complete the long form, they are encouraged to complete a quick count of priority items, contributing valuable and impactful data to Clean Up Australia in an easy and meaningful way.

Long form

The longer Litter Survey consists of 79 item types which are commonly found as litter in the environment. These items are organised into distinct categories which align with the CSIRO Handbook of Survey Methodology Items List.[28]

Volunteers who contribute a full set of data from a sample of their bags play a key role in assisting Clean Up Australia to influence decision-making by government and industry, as well as litter prevention efforts within the community, to ultimately reduce the amount of litter entering our precious environment. We are grateful for volunteer efforts in taking the time to complete the full Litter Survey.

Litter Survey Categories

- Plastics
- Electrical Waste
- Glass
- Metal
- Paper/Cardboard
- Rubber
- Textiles
- Wood
- Miscellaneous
- Fishing
- Other

Quick Count Items

- Aluminium drink cans, e.g. soft drink, beer
- Balloons
- Batteries
- Cigarette butts
- Glass beverage bottles (single use)
- Glass wine bottles
- Plastic bags – food, retail, garbage
- Plastic drink bottles
- Plastic straws
- Plastic takeaway food containers, plates, cutlery, utensils (single use)
- Polystyrene takeaway food containers
- Soft plastics, e.g. chip packets, food wrappers
- Takeaway coffee cups
- Vapes (e-cigarettes)

TOTAL ITEM COUNT = 79

TO NOTE

The Litter Report FY25 is a snapshot to show trends of litter removed during Clean Up Australia Day, the Great Spring Clean Up and Every Day Clean Ups. It is not intended to be a definitive survey representing all litter found in all Australian environments.

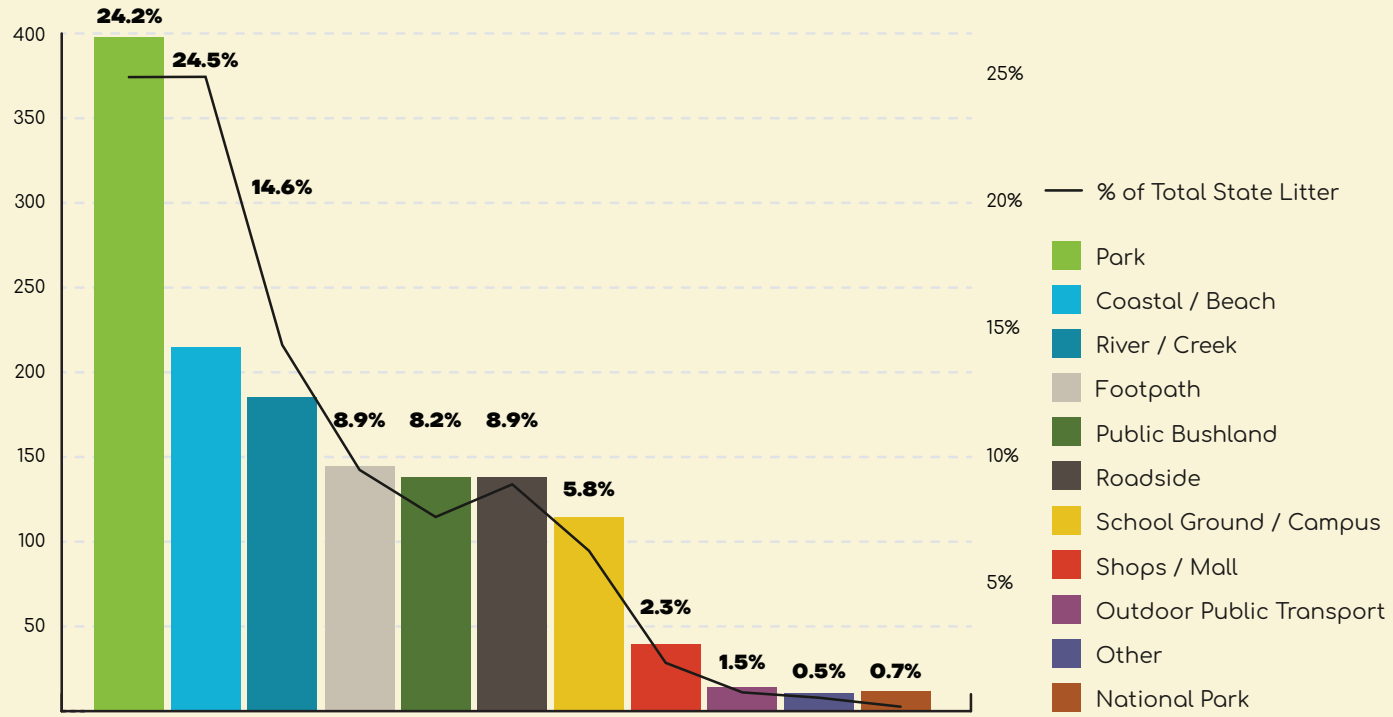
SITE TYPES

Each site surveyed is classified by location. In FY25 these categories included:

- Beach/Coastal
- Dive Site*
- Footpath
- National Park
- Outdoor Public Transport
- Park
- Public Bushland
- River/Creek
- Roadside
- School Grounds/Campus
- Shop/Malls
- Other (please specify)

*No data was provided for Dive Sites in FY25.

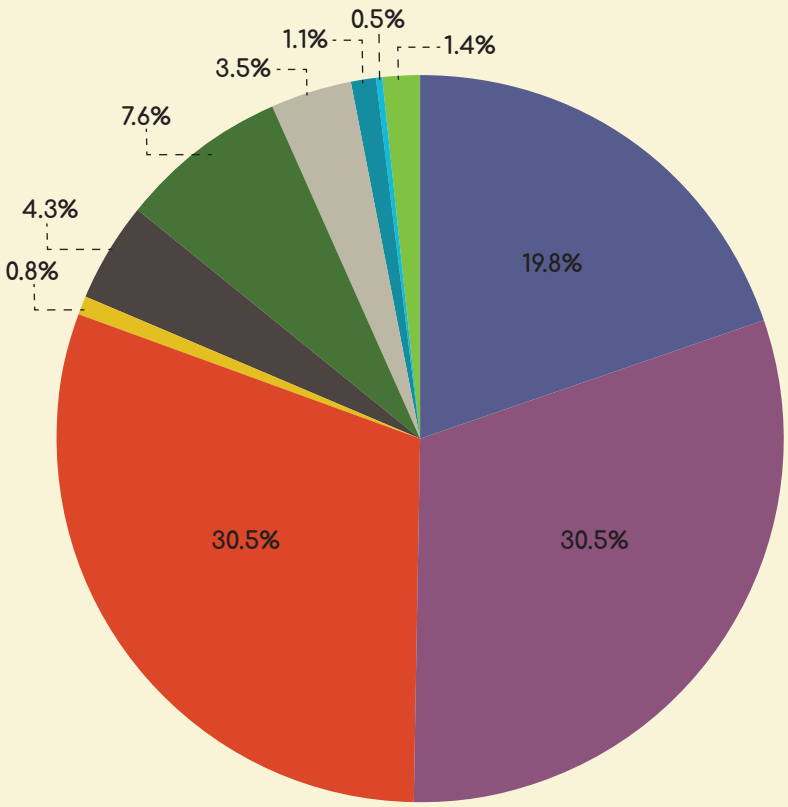
LITTER DISTRIBUTION BY SITE TYPE



- In FY25, 39.1% of all reported litter was removed from waterway sites, including beaches, rivers and creeks (38.2% in FY24).
- 24.2% of all reported litter nationally was removed from parks (22.2% in FY24).
- 17.8% of all reported litter nationally was removed from footpaths and roadsides (21.9% in FY24). Roadside litter is a tricky problem to tackle, with roadside Clean Ups under strict regulations for safety, and some roads being privately managed.
- 8.9% of all reported litter nationally was removed from bushland and national parks (8.2% in FY24).
- Despite more volunteers returning surveys on parks, more litter was reported in waterway sites, reminding us that litter has a strong likelihood of ending up in our precious rivers, creeks, and the ocean.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER



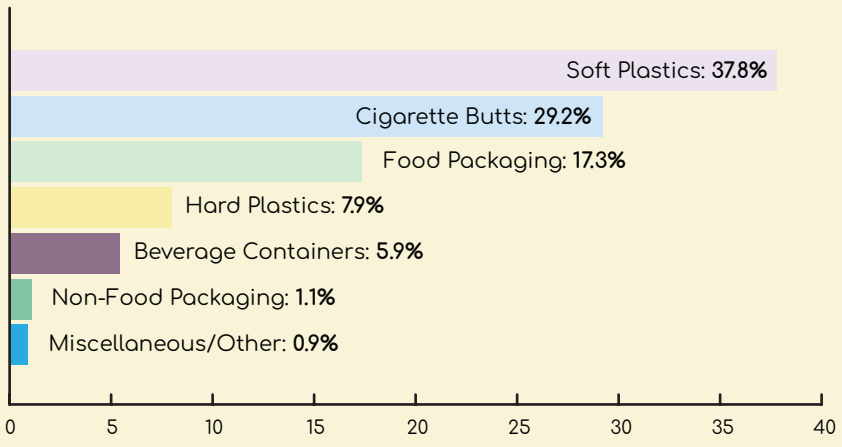
Litter by Material Type

- Miscellaneous: **1.4%**
- Wood: **0.5%**
- Rubber: **1.1%**
- Paper/Cardboard: **3.5%**
- Metal: **7.6%**
- Glass: **4.3%**
- E-Waste: **0.8%**
- All Other Plastic: **30.5%**
- Soft Plastic: **30.5%**
- Hard Plastic: **19.8%**

DISTRIBUTION OF PLASTICS

80.8% OF ALL COUNTED LITTER

PLASTICS



Plastic (hard, soft and all other plastic) is the most common litter type, representing 80.8% (80.7% in FY24) of all litter items counted. This is the 31st year that plastic has dominated the 'Major Types of Litter'.

- Plastic continues to be the most prevalent type of litter in the environment, dominating the other types of litter counted.
- In Australia, the national plastics recovery rate sits at just 14%.[29]

Soft plastic counts represent 30.5% of all surveyed litter (31.8% in FY24) and 37.8% of plastics (39.4% in FY24).

- Soft plastic counts include chip and confectionary wrappers, plastic food bags, retail and garbage bags, cling wrap, miscellaneous soft plastic pieces, reusable shopping bags, and dog poo bags.

Hard plastic counts including plastic beverage bottles, take-away food containers and single-use cutlery and plates represent 19.8% of all surveyed litter (23.4% in FY24).

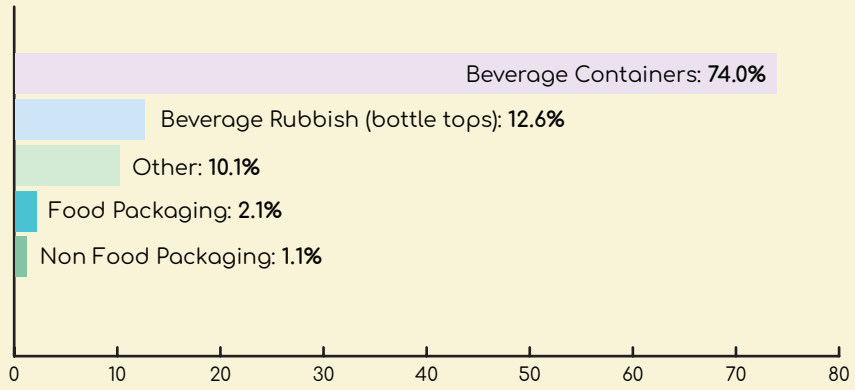
All other plastic counts including cigarette butts, lighters, facemasks and polystyrene represent 30.5% of all surveyed litter (25.5% in FY24).

- All Other Plastic counts increased by 5.0% from FY24, which could be largely attributed to cigarette butt counts which increased by 3.5% from FY24.

DISTRIBUTION OF METAL

7.6% OF ALL COUNTED LITTER

METALS

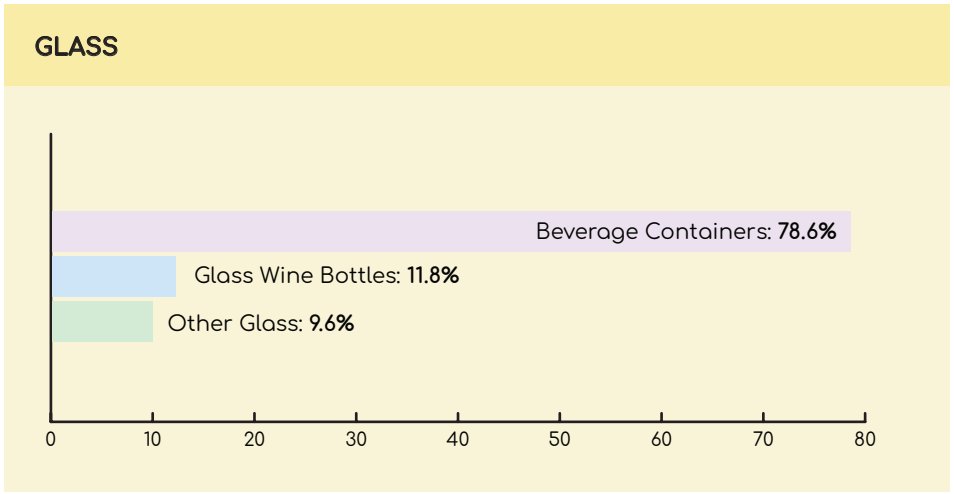


Metals again took second position in the major material types of litter, representing 7.6% of the total count this year (7.6% in FY24).

- Beverage containers continue to dominate metals representing 74.0% of metal litter reported (77.4% in FY24).
- Bottle tops represent 12.6% of metal litter reported, compared to 10.7% in FY24.

DISTRIBUTION OF GLASS

4.3% OF ALL COUNTED LITTER

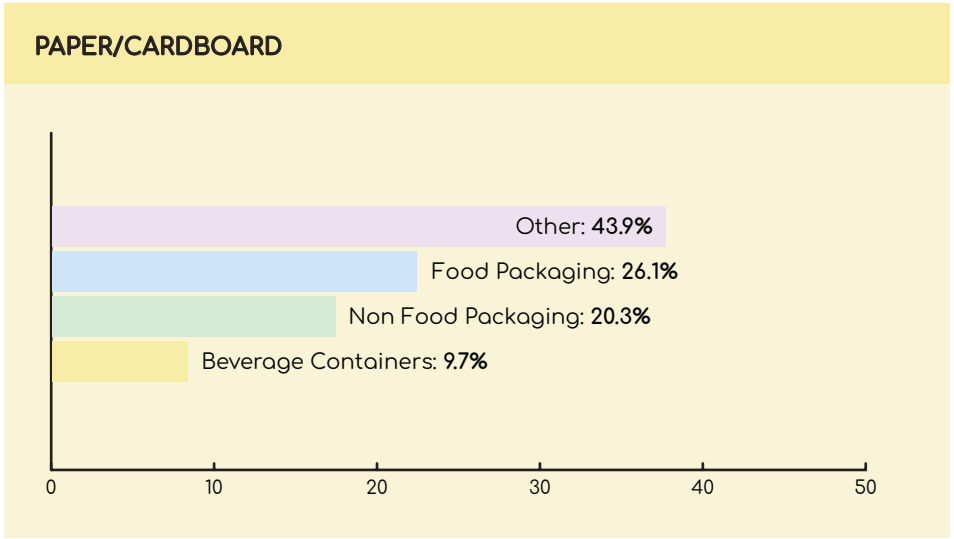


Glass reflects 4.3% of the count, an increase of 0.3% from FY24 (4.0%).

- Glass beverage containers including beer, soft drink, spirits, and wine bottles account for 90.4% of all glass counted (85.2% in FY24).
- Wine bottles represent 11.8% of all counted glass in FY25 (13.4% in FY24).
- Glass has overtaken the paper and cardboard category as the third most collected material type.

DISTRIBUTION OF PAPER/CARDBOARD

3.5% OF ALL COUNTED LITTER



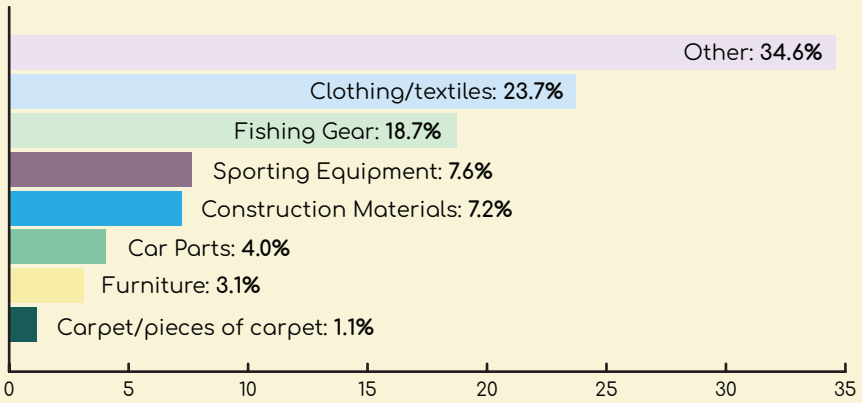
Paper and Cardboard represent 3.5% of all litter reported (4.0% in FY24).

- Within this category, the most counted items in the 'other' group include newspapers, books, magazines, junk mail and paper pieces, which taken together represent 43.9% of all paper counted (56.5% in FY24).
- Food packaging also dominates the category, accounting for 26.1% of all counted paper and cardboard (23.3% in FY24).

DISTRIBUTION OF MISCELLANEOUS

1.4% OF ALL COUNTED LITTER

MISCELLANEOUS



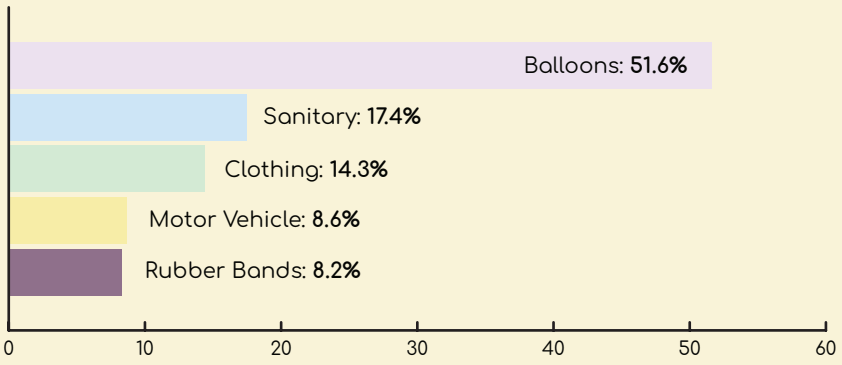
Miscellaneous items represent 1.4% of all counted litter (1.6% in FY24).

- The miscellaneous category includes mixed material items, miscellaneous bags and boxes of waste, carpet, construction materials, and clothing.
- Clothing and textile items represent 23.7% of all miscellaneous counts. (26.3% in FY24).

DISTRIBUTION OF RUBBER

1.1% OF ALL COUNTED LITTER

RUBBER

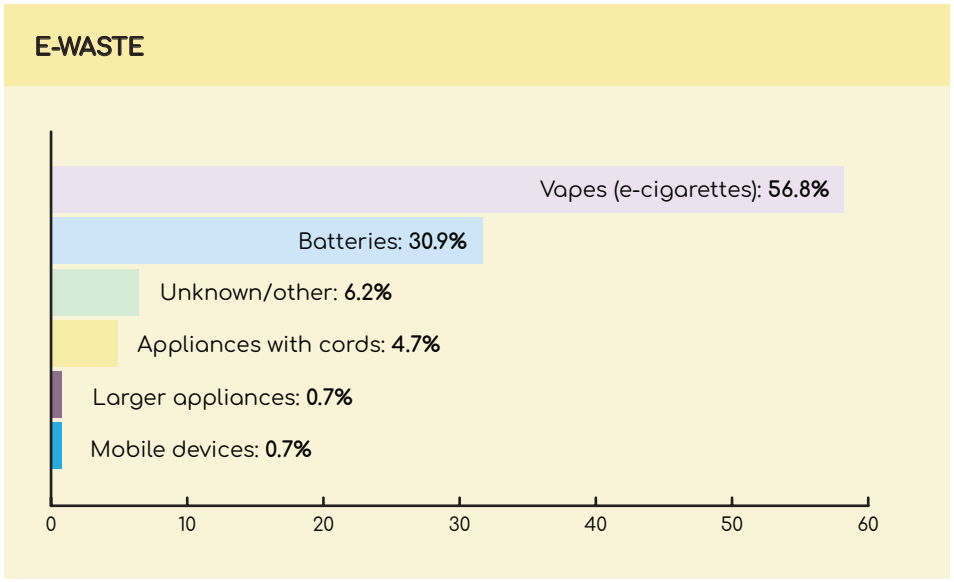


Rubber has overtaken e-waste in the ranks of most reported material type, representing 1.1% of the count (0.8% in FY24).

- Rubber includes tyres, shoes, balloons, thongs and sanitary items such as condoms and gloves.
- Balloons represent the majority of all rubber items found at 51.6% (53.2% in FY24).

DISTRIBUTION OF E-WASTE

0.8% OF ALL COUNTED LITTER

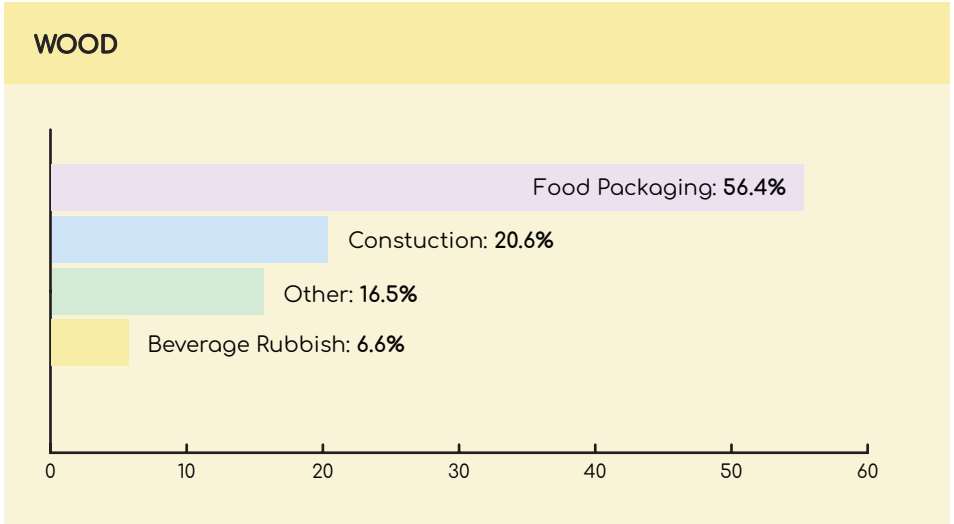


E-Waste represents 0.8% of all litter counted (0.8% in FY24).

- Vapes represent 56.8% (54.7% in FY24) of all e-waste reported. Vapes as a percentage of e-waste reported has risen by 2.1% since FY24.
- Batteries represent 30.9% (37.1% in FY24) of all e-waste reported, having dropped by 6.2% as a percentage of all e-waste reported since FY24.

DISTRIBUTION OF WOOD

0.5% OF ALL COUNTED LITTER



Wood is the material type least represented both this year and last year at 0.5% (0.4% in FY24).

- 56.4% of wood items are food packaging, consisting of utensils and food sticks. (49.0% in FY24)

THE TOP TEN LITTER ITEMS

GROUPED BY CATEGORY

The top 10 litter **categories** collected **and counted** at Clean Up Australia sites in FY25 and ranked in order as a percentage of the total litter count, compared to FY24.

	FY25		FY24	
RANK	**ITEM**	**% OF TOTAL LITTER COUNT**	**ITEM**	**% OF TOTAL LITTER COUNT**
1	Non-food packaging	31.7	Soft Plastics	31.8
2	Soft Plastics	30.5	Non-food packaging	30.4
3	Beverage Containers	14.6	Beverage Containers	15.0
4	Food Packaging	13.2	Food Packaging	12.5
5	Household Items	3.6	Household Items	4.5
6	Beverage Litter	3.1	Beverage Litter	2.9
7	Construction Materials	0.9	E-Waste	0.8
8	E-Waste	0.8	Construction Materials	0.7
9	Clothing	0.7	Clothing	0.5
10	Toys & Sporting Equipment	0.4	Sanitary Items	0.5
	Sanitary Items	0.3	Toys & Sporting Equipment	0.3
	Automative Items	0.1	Automative Items	0.1
		100		100

- The top 3 counted litter categories on Clean Up Australia sites in FY25 are:
  1. **Non-food packaging** – boxes, bags, butts – representing 31.7% of all counted litter (30.4% in FY24)
  2. **Soft plastics** – all, including plastic bags – representing 30.5% of all counted litter (31.8% in FY24)
  3. **Beverage containers** – bottles, cans, cartons – representing 14.6% of all counted litter (15.0% in FY24)
- **Non-food packaging** has overtaken **soft plastics** as the most collected and counted category of litter on Clean Up Australia sites over the FY25 period.

  > Non-food packaging includes cigarette butts which are the most collected litter item in FY25.

- With **soft plastics** representing 30.5% of all counted litter this year, there is clear need for both reduction and reuse efforts to stem soft plastics waste at the source, as well as a scaled recollection and recycling system for soft plastics.

PACKAGING REPRESENTS 59.5% OF ALL REPORTED LITTER IN THE YEAR

> The voluntary product stewardship scheme for soft plastics in Australia established by Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia (SPSA) officially commenced in December 2025 with authorisation for 8 years.[30]
>
> The scheme should eventually result in less soft plastics litter in the environment.

- **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 (57.8% in FY24).

> When taken together with **beverage litter,** which includes bottle caps, corks and straws, packaging makes up 62.6% of all litter counted in FY25.
>
> Packaging is a target area for Clean Up Australia in FY26.
>
> The average Australian consumer uses 146kg of packaging per year.[31]
>
> Clean Up Australia strongly supports the implementation of an EPR scheme for packaging which would ensure producers and manufacturers are legally responsible for the packaging they place on the market.

- **Household items** including furniture, ceramics, balloons and more represent 3.6% of all litter reported in FY25. (4.4% in FY24).
- **Clothing** represents 0.7% of all litter reported in (0.5% in FY24).

> In July 2024 Australia's voluntary product stewardship scheme for fashion, Seamless launched.[32] Whether a voluntary scheme can be effective remains to be seen.
>
> Meanwhile, the European Union (EU) has made great progress, having passed mandatory EPR legislation for clothing in September 2025, which promises to curb textile waste and ensure producers pay for how it is collected, sorted and recycled.[33]

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS

The top 10 **individual** litter items collected **and counted** at Clean Up Australia sites in FY25 and ranked in order as a percentage of the total litter count, compared to FY24.

	FY25		FY24	
RANK	**ITEM**	**% OF TOTAL LITTER COUNT**	**ITEM**	**% OF TOTAL LITTER COUNT**
1	Cigarette Butts	23.6	Soft Plastics – packets, wrappers	24.6
2	Soft Plastics – packets, wrappers	18.6	Cigarette Butts	20.1
3	Plastic Bags – food, retail, garbage	8.7	Plastic Bags – food, retail, garbage	6.9
4	Aluminium Beverage Cans	5.6	Aluminium Beverage Cans	5.9
5	Plastic Beverage Bottles	4.8	Plastic Beverage Bottles	5.3
6	Takeaway Coffee Cups	4.3	Plastic Food Containers & Utensils	5.0
7	Plastic Food Containers & Utensils	4.1	Hard Plastic Fragments >5mm	4.5
8	Glass Beverage Bottles	3.4	Glass Beverage Bottles	2.9
9	Hard Plastic Fragments >5mm	2.7	Takeaway Coffee Cups	2.8
10	Other Soft Plastics	2.5	Paper Items	1.6
		78.3		79.6

- The top 3 counted **litter items** at Clean Up Australia sites in FY25 are:
  1. **Cigarette butts** – representing 23.6% of all counted litter (20.1% in FY24)
  2. **Soft plastics** – packets, wrappers – representing 18.6% of all counted litter (24.6% in FY24)
  3. **Plastic bags** – food, retail, garbage – representing 8.7% of all counted litter (6.9% in FY24)
- **Cigarette butts** as a proportion of the overall litter count increased by 3.5% from FY24.
- **Soft plastics** and **cigarette butts** have consistently ranked in the top 2 collected items over the past 6 years from 2020.
- **Cigarette butts** are the most littered item in Australia, highlighting the severity of the butt litter problem.

> It is estimated that up to 8.9 billion butts are littered in Australia every year.[34]
>
> A NSW EPA study showed that the most effective behavioural measure to reducing butt litter involves increasing a sense of pride and ownership of an area amongst smokers.[35]

CIGARETTE BUTTS ARE THE MOST LITTERED ITEM IN AUSTRALIA

> Other butt litter prevention strategies include: creating environmental pathways to butt bins, creating positive social reinforcement for correct disposal, and enforcement via fines.
>
> Clean Up Australia is considering behavioural and systemic strategies to change as we develop our Litter Prevention Plan.
>
> Clean Up Australia supports inclusion of all plastic cigarette filters as an item for regulation in the Global Plastics Treaty.

- **Soft plastics** packets taken with **other soft plastics** account for 21.1% of the total litter count.

  > With the commencement of the voluntary Soft Plastics Stewardship Australia product stewardship scheme in December 2025, **soft plastics** as a percentage of overall litter may decrease in the coming years.
  >
  > Clean Up Australia fully supports the implementation of a mandatory Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme (EPR) for all packaging, including soft plastics, over a voluntary scheme.

- **Aluminium beverage cans** and **plastic beverage bottles** represent 10.4% of all litter counted nationally.

  > These items are easily recoverable via CDS. With schemes now nationwide, these litter levels may drop over coming years.

- **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 Free July is one Australian initiative which showcases how small changes can be made to avoid takeaway coffee cups.

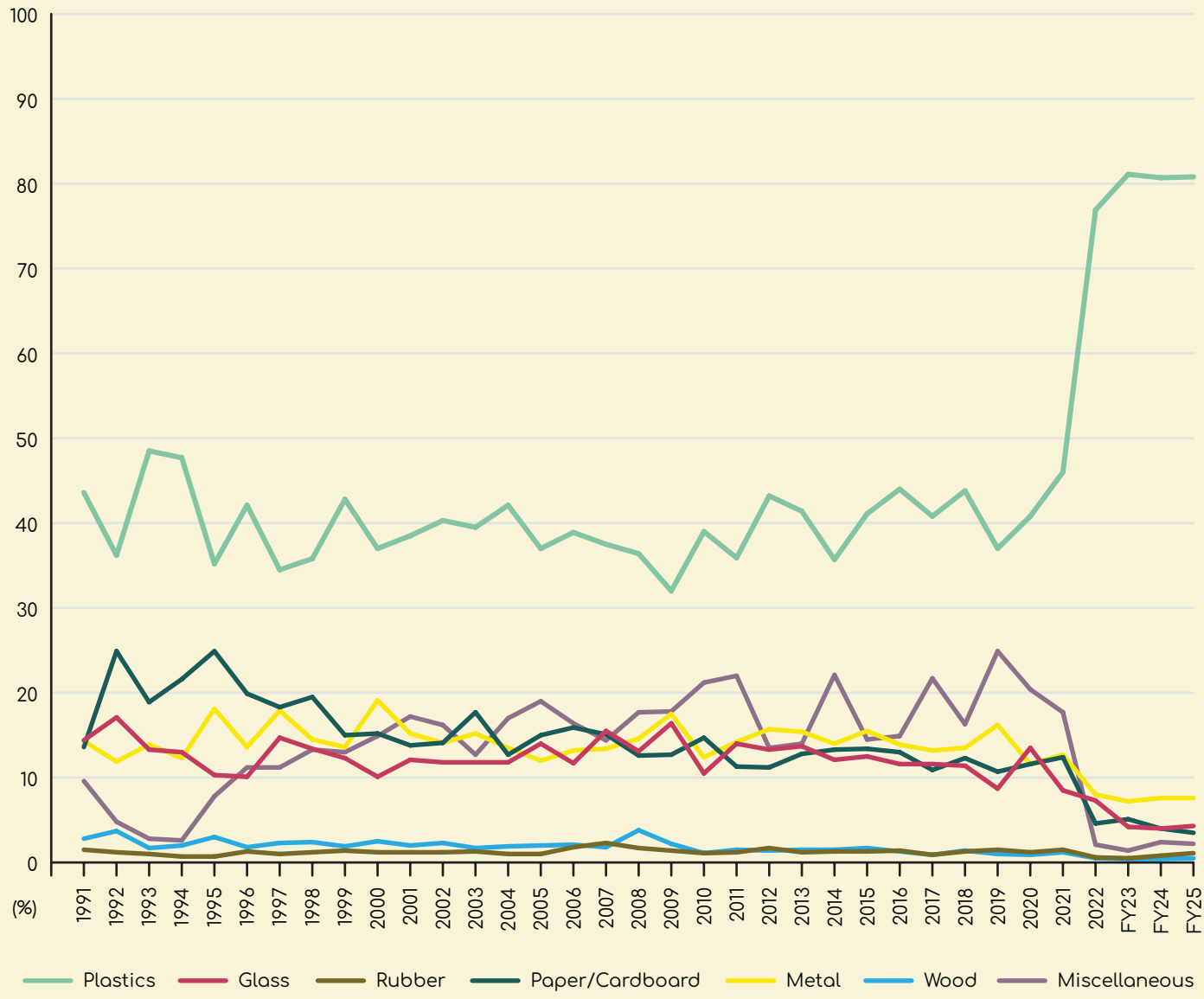
- **Plastic takeaway food containers including utensils** are a consistently present litter item in the environment, representing 4.1% of all litter reported in FY25 (5.0% in FY24).

  > 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.[36]
  >
  > All states have banned plastic utensils, with the NT and TAS yet to fully implement the changes.

- 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.

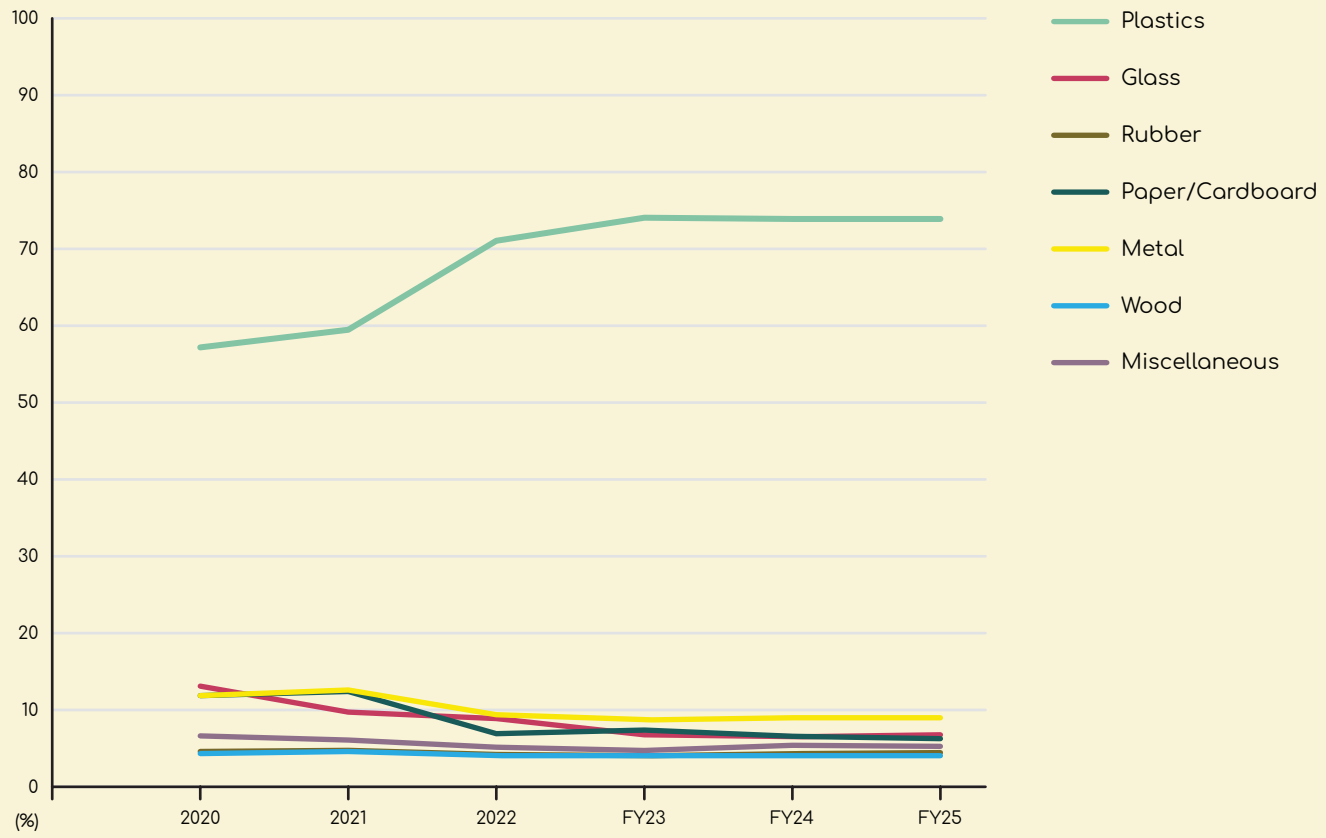
HISTORICAL COMPARISON

CHANGES IN LITTER TYPES OVER 35 YEARS



- The 'Changes in Litter Types over 35 Years' graph showcases Australia's increasing problem with plastics littering the environment.
- Increasing levels of plastic production leads to increasing levels of plastic pollution in the environment.[37]
- Plastic pollution poses a significant threat to ecosystems and wildlife.
- Worldwide, plastic waste kills up to 1 million sea birds, 100,000 sea mammals, marine turtles and countless fish each year. Plastic remains in our ecosystem for years, harming thousands of sea creatures every day.[38]
- A study conducted by Blue Environment for WWF and AMCS shows that the emissions from Australia's plastics consumption is equal to 5.7 million cars on the road every year.[39]
- Continuing to transition Australia to a circular economy would reduce waste, litter, pollution and plastic-related greenhouse gas emissions.[40]

CHANGES IN LITTER TYPES OVER 5 YEARS



- The graph shows changes in types of litter collected over the past 5 years.
- Since 2020, **plastics** have continually dominated the litter landscape, and as a category continues to increase as a percentage of overall litter.
- Since 2021, **plastics** as a category has seen a sharp increase in levels reported by our volunteers. This trend reflects a direct link between plastic production, plastic use and plastic waste and litter.[41] In Australia, we generate more single-use plastic waste per person than other country in the world, except Singapore.[42]
- Australia's plastic consumption is increasing and will continue to increase unless we start reducing single-use plastic packaging. In the year 2000, Australia consumed 1.79 million tonnes of plastic. In 2024, this had risen to 3.97 million tonnes of plastic, a 122% increase.[43]
- As the Australia Institute state: 'The significant increase in our consumption of plastics is driving the plastic waste crisis.'[44]
- **Glass and paper/cardboard** as proportions of litter types have gradually decreased and may reflect increased reuptake of these waste streams via recycling.

  > **Glass** had the highest recovery rate of any waste stream in 2022-23 for the first time, at 69%.[45]
  >
  > Paper/cardboard has a high recovery rate at 65% in 2022-23 – although this is a slight decrease on the 2021-22 recovery rate of 68%.[46]

- **Metals** as a percentage of litter types has also decreased over the 5-year period.

  > 52% of all metal packaging was recovered in 2022-23.[47]

- Over 130,000 tonnes of plastic litter leaks into the Australian marine environment each year.[48] The graph is indicative of Australia's increasing plastic waste crisis.

DISCUSSION

SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

With **plastics** once again dominating the FY25 Litter Report, representing 80.8% of all counted litter this year, single-use plastics are a critical issue within the Australian waste and litter landscape.

In Australia, the national plastics recovery rate sits at just 14%.[49] Australians consumed 4.0 million tonnes of plastic products and packaging in 2023-2024, with at least 2.7 million tonnes of plastic and packaging sent to landfill.[50] With 130,000 tonnes of plastic litter leaking into the Australian marine environment each year,[51] the time to act and cut plastic pollution at the source is now.

There is a clear need for implementation of policies and reforms that limit production of plastics. The National Waste Policy Action Plan includes strategic direction for improved waste management, resource recovery and reuse in Australia. The Plan aligns with the priorities set out in the National Circular Economy Framework and contributes specifically to the framework's 80% resource recovery by 2035 target.[52]

'Target 5: Continued phase out of problematic and unnecessary plastics' in the National Waste Policy Action Plan specifically highlights the need to find viable alternatives to single-use plastics, including reusables, and design plastics that are more durable, but which can be easily recovered at end of life.

Among the states, WA has been at the forefront of single-use plastic phase-outs, and since September, 2024 has officially banned all plastic takeaway food containers, lidded or unlidded.[53] SA has also banned many plastic takeaway containers, with an exemption currently in place for standard, rectangular plastic takeaway containers.[54] Both states have further bans on single-use plastics cups for hot and cold drinks. They are to be commended for their forward-thinking policies. However, in banning these items both WA and SA have largely emphasised a transition to compostable items.

Clean Up Australia supports a greater transition to reusable packaging, rather than single-use, as outlined in the 'Packaging' section below. With **takeaway coffee cups** representing 4.3% of overall reported litter in FY25 (2.8% in FY24), this form of litter and waste can be further prevented by consumers transitioning to using a reusable cup.

In November, 2025, Clean Up Australia welcomed the NSW Plastics Plan 2.0, outlining progressive phase-outs in NSW, including helium balloon releases from 2026,[55] joining QLD, WA and TAS who already have bans on balloon releases in place.[56] Balloons are the highest risk marine debris item for wildlife and are 32 times more likely to kill seabirds than hard plastic when ingested.[57] These bans will help to conserve vulnerable wildlife into the future.

130,000 TONNES OF PLASTIC LITTER LEAKS INTO THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT EACH YEAR

Despite widespread bans on lightweight plastic bags, **plastic bags** continue to represent 8.7% of all counted litter in FY25. Heavyweight bags have been phased out in WA, ACT and SA, with NSW, NT and TAS considering future bans. SA is leading the way in this area, having banned plastic produce bags for fruit and vegetables since September, 2024.[58] SA further banned soy sauce fish in 2025.[59] However, it is disappointing that the state leant on replacement via plastic sachets. Banning of soy sauce fish is a perfect case study to implement reusables, with the option of a squirt bottle for soy sauce on the counter an easy and viable alternative.

The issue of **cigarette butts** remains contentious, with an estimated 8.9 billion butts littered in Australia every year.[60] In the NSW Plastics Plan 2.0, cigarette filters were highlighted as a key problem item by the NSW Government, who expressed intention to explore a national approach to regulating cigarette butts.[61] Cigarette butts were the number one littered item on Clean Up sites this year, representing 23.6% of all counted litter (20.1% in FY24).

Global Plastics Treaty

In 2025 Clean Up Australia joined arms with 30 other organisations, making a united call for Australia to finalise a strong and binding Global Plastics Treaty at the sixth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) meetings, INC 5.2 held in Geneva, in August.[62] Unfortunately, negotiating countries were once again unable to reach agreement to finalise the Treaty text. Low ambition from a handful of countries with vested interest in plastic production has come head-to-head with the High Ambition Coalition, of which Australia is a member. More than 100 nations,[63] including Australia and backed by more than 900 scientists,[64] say a cap on the soaring production of plastic is essential to reduce plastic pollution.

If we are to tackle the plastic waste crisis head-on, Australia must demand a strong and robust Global Plastics Treaty with ambitious and enforceable rules to minimise harmful plastics, promote sustainable design, prevent leakage to the environment, standardise approaches globally and leverage funding worldwide, with engrained rules to strengthen the treaty's measures and implementation over time.

Cigarette Butts in the Global Plastics Treaty

"Cigarette filters made with plastic" are currently listed in the proposed draft text of the Global Plastics Treaty under Annex X, a category for items proposed for restriction, limitation or phase-out, on a voluntary basis by signatory countries.[65] There is no evidence that cigarette filters are beneficial for human health;[66,67] indeed, research shows ventilated filters were designed to make cigarettes more appealing, not safer.[68] The World Health Organization Framework for Tobacco Control recommends "removing consumer misconceptions about filters substantially reducing health harms",[69] and calls on policymakers to consider banning cigarette filters to protect public health and the environment.[70,71]

AN ESTIMATED 8.9 BILLION BUTTS ARE LITTERED IN AUSTRALIA EVERY YEAR

Clean Up Australia supports the addition of **all** plastic cigarette filters, including any made with "bioplastic" or "compostable plastic", to be listed in Annex Y of the treaty, rather than Annex X.[72] Inclusion in Annex Y would set plastic cigarette filters up for a global phase-out and directly influence signatory states to take coordinated action on implementing national bans. This approach would also ensure any bioplastics come under regulation.

SOFT PLASTICS

It has been a big year for **soft plastics** in Australia, with SPSA lodging an application to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) to commence its voluntary industry-led product stewardship scheme for soft plastics, including shopping bags, fresh produce bags, food wrappers, bags and pouches.

In August, a draft determination was made by the ACCC, followed by final determination, which was issued on November 12, 2025, granting authorisation with conditions for 8 years until December 4, 2033.[73]

Clean Up Australia commented on the proposed Scheme at all requests for submission. We are delighted that the Scheme has been granted authorisation, as a positive step towards circularity for soft plastics, while national packaging regulatory reform is under consideration. With soft plastics representing 30.5% of all counted litter in FY25, a solution to minimise litter and waste is needed.

The current Scheme unites the Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC) project with a retailer-led soft plastics taskforce including Coles, Woolworths, ALDI, Metcash, 7-Eleven and other brands, whose funding contributions have helped enable collection trials as well as investment in much-needed recycling infrastructure. In August 2025 IQ-Renew launched its soft plastics recycling facility at Kundle Kundle, NSW, which in its current form can process 14,000 tonnes of household soft plastics per year – amounting to double the volume that the REDCycle scheme collected during operations.[74] Kerbside pilots across 9 Council areas have shown strong community appetite for soft plastics recycling, with over 88,000kgs collected.[75]

In its current voluntary form, however, the Scheme largely focuses on collection and recycling. With soft plastic packaging placed on the market (POM) in 2022-2023 estimated at 540,000 tonnes,[76] current recycling capacity does not come close to meeting the volume of soft plastics being consumed in Australia. The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) projects that over the next 5 years, flexible plastic reprocessing capacity will increase by 287,000 tonnes, bringing reprocessing capacity to 54% of POM in 2027-28, compared to just 10% in 2022-23.[77]

This is great news. Nevertheless, we are overproducing and overconsuming soft plastics and there is urgent need for action on the reduction, reuse and redesign of soft plastics, rather than relying on recycling alone. Clean Up Australia supports the implementation of a mandatory EPR for all packaging, including soft plastics, over a voluntary scheme. A successful national mandatory EPR scheme for soft plastics must be truly circular and cover the entirety of the supply chain, with focus on both collection of materials at end-of-life *and* good design to minimise use and maximise recovery and recycling rates. If single-use soft plastics are designed to be food grade, they should be recycled back into food grade plastic as much as possible. Importantly, a mandatory EPR should include targets for reuse and reduction measures.

The 2025 Unwrapped Report prepared by Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) and the Boomerang Alliance highlights key measures to reduce soft plastics in supermarkets,[78] including:

- Reducing unnecessary plastic wrapping on fresh food where possible
- Giving customers opt-out options for plastic produce bags for online orders
- Developing reuse and refillable strategies for certain foods
- Continuing to invest in recycling infrastructure
- Investing in consumer awareness on soft plastics recycling and reuse options for produce bags

PACKAGING

Packaging (non-food, beverage containers and food) continues to lead litter counts, representing 59.5% of all reported litter during FY25 (57.8% in FY24).

PACKAGING REPRESENTS 59.5% OF ALL REPORTED LITTER

Combined, **packaging** and **soft plastics** represent 62.1% of all **plastics** reported (60.8% in FY24). Clean Up Australia's volunteer base reports vast quantities of packaging clogging rivers, streams, parks and beaches – including take-away containers, soft plastics and mixed-material packaging. Packaging is an extremely problematic litter item in the environment.

It is also a problematic waste stream, one that, with legislative changes, could be better designed to reduce unnecessary plastics and layers, incorporate recycled content, increase recovery rates and decrease waste-to-landfill. Throughout 2025, Clean Up Australia has been awaiting Commonwealth progression of packaging reforms, following 2024 consultation with all stakeholders involved or interested in the production, use and recovery of packaging in Australia.

APCO's targets for packaging are currently far from being met, with the latest data showing that Target 2: 70% of plastic packaging being recycled or composted was sitting at just 19% over 2022-23.[79] Furthermore, plastic packaging manufacturers estimate that plastic packaging POM will continue to grow at a rate that is well above population growth.[80] In April 2025, a national Senate Inquiry found that Australia's reliance on voluntary agreements for packaging has failed to reduce plastic waste, recommending the implementation of mandatory packaging design standards incorporated into an EPR scheme.[81]

Clean Up Australia wholeheartedly supports the implementation of an EPR scheme for packaging (including soft plastics) which would ensure producers and manufacturers are legally responsible for the packaging they place on the market. A mandatory EPR scheme for packaging should be developed using levy funds and an eco-modulation model rewarding good packaging design and recyclability, and include incentives for incorporating domestic recycled content. Raised funds should be invested to develop effective recycling infrastructure to meet capacity needs. A mandatory EPR ensures good product design, recycling capacity, procurement and the development of strong end-markets.

Funds can also be invested into reuse infrastructure, and the scheme should incorporate targets for reduction and reuse alongside recycling. European models for packaging regulation provide excellent examples of successful eco-modulation in action. Key aspects of EPR in the European Union include enforced reduction and reuse targets, mandatory recycled content in packaging, harmonised labelling requirements and requirements for consistent implementation of EPR across multiple member states, as well as packaging standardisation for reuse systems and packaging designed for litter prevention (e.g. tethered lids on plastic bottles).[82]

The Role of Reusables

Clean Up Australia and the Boomerang Alliance have continued to lead calls on packaging reform, with strong emphasis on the role of reusables in driving the shift from single-use. With plastic production growing at an alarming rate and Australia's plastic consumption expected to more than double by 2050,[83] it is not feasible to recycle our way out of this crisis. In 2025, the Boomerang Alliance supported by Clean Up Australia wrote to the Federal Government proposing the development of a Commonwealth Reuse Strategy to accompany upcoming packaging reforms.[84] The strategy calls for a minimum 30% reusable packaging target by 2030, supported by practical measures to expand reuse across:

- Stadiums, events and festivals
- Government offices and public institutions
- Corporate workplaces and hospitality venues
- Educational facilities and transport hubs
- Supermarkets and retail
- Container refund and take-back systems

This strategy aligns with Australia's commitments in the Global Plastics Treaty negotiations and would make a meaningful contribution to doubling national circularity by 2035 (in line with Australia's National Circularity Framework),[85] while reducing plastic pollution and associated emissions.

An example of a successful reuse platform is the TOMRA system currently operating a 3-year trial in Denmark, utilising shared infrastructure and automated collection points where customers can borrow reusable takeaway packaging and return it at convenient drop-off points, in a loop of circularity.[86] The Woodford Folk Festival in QLD, attended by over 100,000 people, is an example of successful implementation of a closed reuse system for cups, which saves an estimated 250,000 cups from landfill.[87]

Clean Up Australia is pleased to note that the NSW Plastics Plan 2.0 has strong emphasis on **reuse,** with commencement trials of reusable cup systems at NSW government premises from 2026, large food service businesses to offer a reusable cup option as part of a reuse system from 2030, and perhaps most excitingly, a reuse-only trial precinct to be established in Sydney CBD from 2027.[88] This trial precinct can provide valuable data and insights for establishing scaled reuse precincts in future.

CONTAINER DEPOSIT SCHEMES

This year was a milestone for Australia's national CDS network which now covers the entirety of the country.

In May 2025, TAS' Recycle Rewards officially began operations. The scheme is the final piece in the puzzle in Australia's network.[89] These schemes increase recycling rates overall, with the WA scheme Containers for Change increasing the container recovery rate from 33% in 2021 to 65.4% in September 2024.[90] This has a direct impact on litter, with a study by CSIRO showing that deposit schemes reduce drink containers in the ocean by 40%.[91]

Clean Up Australia data shows that Australia's schemes have been successful in reducing litter in the environment. In NSW, prior to the commencement of the CDS in 2017, beverage container litter reflected 28.7% of all reported litter.[92] In FY25, this has reduced to 14.7% (15.1% in FY24). In QLD, beverage container litter represented 17.5% of all reported litter in 2019.[93] Since commencement of the state's CDS in 2018, beverage container litter has dropped, representing 13.8% of all counted litter in FY25.

Despite Australia's successes with CDSs, research shows that in many states, return rates have stagnated. For example, in QLD, despite a resource recovery target rate of 85%, the Scheme's return rates sit at 67.4% for 2023-2024, with the rate for the first two quarters of this financial year at 62.7%, around 20% shy of legislated targets.[94]

Indeed, Australia's schemes have a long way to go in terms of performance when compared to international schemes. In Europe, most countries with Deposit Return Systems (DRSs) in place achieve recycling rates above 90%, diverting significant quantities of drink containers from disposal and keeping that material circulating in the economy.[95] Germany is an excellent example of a country with an incredibly successful DRS in place. The country achieves a record 98% return rate on eligible single-use drink containers, owing both to the system's meaningful deposit value (€0.25 for single-use containers, equivalent to AUD $0.43) and a convenient and dense network of return locations.[96]

Clean Up Australia supports an increase in the refund rate for all schemes nationwide from 10c to 20c or more, to account for inflation and to maintain and grow the incentive to recycle within the community. In 2023, the nation's Heads of Environmental Protection Agencies (HEPA) commissioned the 'Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) Behaviour Change National Research' Report.[97] Hudson Howells' recommendation was that a doubling of the current refund rate would lead to a 16% increase in return rates, based on observed improvements in the SA scheme over time, following an increase in the refund amount. In SA, when the refund amount doubled from 5 to 10 cents in 2008, the overall return rate rose significantly from 69.9% in 2007/08 to 80.1% in 2009/10.[98] Increasing the refund amount would grow the rate of community participation in schemes, improve the return rate for recycling and consequentially, reduce litter and the incidence of wasted resources in landfill.

DEPOSIT SCHEMES REDUCE DRINK CONTAINERS IN THE OCEAN BY 40%.

Clean Up Australia also supports adding additional and more convenient return points for all schemes, including more Reverse Vending Machines (RVM) in high footfall locations such as supermarkets and retail centres, as well as expanding all schemes to include glass wine and spirit bottles, as QLD did in 2023. NSW, SA, WA, ACT and the NT have all committed to expanding their schemes to include these bottles,[99] with NT and WA expected to enact changes by mid-2026, and NSW, ACT and SA expected to enact these changes by late-2027.[100] We congratulate the NT whose scheme will expand further to include any beverage container up to 3 litres, including plain milk – a great move for the Territory, where kerbside recycling is less common.[101] With **beverage containers** representing 14.6% of all counted litter nationally in FY25, improving CDSs around the country represents an opportunity to decrease litter levels into the future.

BATTERIES

Batteries and vapes collectively represent 87.7% of all e-waste reported as litter to Clean Up Australia in FY25.

Batteries were found at 23.3% of all surveyed Clean Up sites in FY25. Batteries are a challenging waste stream in Australia, with CSIRO research showing that lithium-ion battery waste is growing by 20% a year and could exceed 100,000 tonnes by 2036.[102]

Lithium-ion batteries power most portable electronics such as phones and laptops, electric vehicles like e-bikes and scooters, cordless tools and vapes, as well as some standard battery types such as AA and AAA. Because of the relative newness of lithium-ion battery technology, current recovery systems are inadequate, with CSIRO reporting that only 10% of our lithium-ion battery waste is currently recycled.[103] The same problem exists for e-waste generally. In 2022, only about half of all e-waste generated in Australia was recycled.[104]

With electronics now an integral part of our day to day lives, more batteries than ever are improperly disposed of via landfill or end up as litter in the environment. Batteries were found on 23.2% of sites surveyed in FY25 (19.2% of sites in FY24). Incorrect disposal means that battery fires are common, with more than 10,000 battery-related fires and explosions occurring in the Australian waste sector each year, representing a risk to both people and industry.[105]

Part of the recovery problem is that Australia's electronics and batteries are only partially managed through voluntary product stewardship schemes, including the voluntary battery recycling scheme B-cycle, the voluntary mobile phone recycling scheme Mobile Muster, and the co-regulatory National Televisions and Computers Recycling Scheme (NTCRS).

With a collection rate of only 18.5%,[106] battery scheme B-cycle highlights the inadequacies of a voluntary structure in achieving true product stewardship success, due to the lack of consequences for non-compliance, lower recovery rates, and limited resourcing.[107] As described by the Total Environment Centre (TEC), industry-led voluntary schemes lack the scope, performance levels and transparency needed to adequately manage production and waste.[108]

Clean Up Australia commends the NSW Government who in 2025 stepped up to initiate a mandatory product stewardship scheme for batteries within the state. While Clean Up Australia supports the scheme, we recommend that strong additional targets are incorporated, including:

- Clear and ambitious targets for collection – ensuring widespread and accessible consumer access to drop-off locations
- Clear and ambitious targets for resource recovery
- Design standards which ensure increased standardisation of products across the board and reduced reliance on more toxic or hard to recover materials, and which would ensure progressively increasing recovery rates of materials at end-of-life
- Percentage requirements for recycled content in regulated batteries placed on the market in NSW, ensuring end markets for recovered materials
- Targets and strategies as to consumer awareness and education around correct disposal of regulated batteries
- Mandated labelling requirements for batteries to expedite sorting, recovery and ensure proper disposal by consumers while indicating recycled content

The NSW scheme once implemented should be viewed as a vital opportunity to gather data and measure outcomes, to develop a nationwide, harmonised mandatory scheme for batteries at the federal level as soon as possible.

Vapes

Vapes in Australia remain a problem for both health and the environment. With new regulations surrounding the import and selling of vapes, there has been little action on a clear and consistent path for vape disposal. Clean Up Australia has noted a rise in the number of Clean Up sites reporting vapes as litter, despite single-use vapes now being illegal. Vapes were collected from 33.9% of sites surveyed in FY25 (30.1% of sites in FY24, 22.4% in FY23, 10.4% of sites in 2022). Over 3 years, the number of Clean Up sites reporting vapes as litter has risen by 23.5%.

Vapes do not belong in general waste or recycling bins and due to the embedded battery cannot be accepted at battery bins commonly found in major supermarkets, hardware stores, electronics stores and other places. QLD has made significant progress in establishing 88 drop-off locations for embedded batteries, including vapes.[109] Similarly, in NSW in September 2025, an additional 13 locations were added to the NSW embedded battery recycling trial, totalling 34 Community Recycling Centres in the state that now accepts vapes and other embedded batteries.[110] Nationwide, it is recommended to consult Recycle Mate at www.recyclemate.com.au to locate safe vape and embedded battery disposal locations.

Clean Up Australia supports the establishment of a nationwide safe disposal system for vapes.

QLD HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN ESTABLISHING 88 DROP-OFF LOCATIONS FOR EMBEDDED BATTERIES, INCLUDING VAPES.

CONCLUSION

The Clean Up Australia Litter Report FY25 highlights the immense challenge Australia is facing with litter and waste. Australians produce approximately 60kg of plastic waste each year,[111] and around 250kg of Australia's plastic waste enters the environment as litter every *minute*.[112]

We are fortunate to have one of the world's most beautiful natural environments, and there is no place for plastic pollution or litter in it.

FY25 has been a big year for waste in Australia, and we have made great progress with our CDSs, and an ongoing push to phase-out single-use plastics.

Clean Up Australia envisions a waste-free future for our country, one that is guided by the three core principles of a circular economy: designing out waste and pollution, keeping products and materials in use and at highest value through reuse, repair, refurbishing and re-manufacturing, and regenerating natural systems.[113] Our Clean Up work continues to play a key role in restoring ecosystems to natural health.

Clean Ups are the foundation of our Litter Report data. We are proud that our annual Litter Report provides insights that help inform public policy, industry practice, and community engagement – as we seek to further our mission to *inspire and mobilise communities to improve and conserve our environment, eliminate litter, and end waste.*

With an estimated 1,030,088 volunteers joining us in 12,242 Clean Up events throughout FY25, we have the strength and will of an engaged and positive community behind us. It's time to embrace transformation, as we move toward a cleaner, more circular Australia.

ENDNOTES

[1] O'Farrell,K., Harney, F., & Chakma,P. (2021). *Australian Plastics Flows and Fates Study 2019-20 – National Report.* https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/apff-national-report_0.pdf

[2] Belzagui, F., Buscio, V. Gutiérrez-Bouzán, C., Vilaseca,M. (2020). *Cigarette butts as a microfiber source with a microplastic level of concern.* https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969720376968

[3] Santos, R.G., Machovsky-Capuska, G.E., & Andrades, R. *Plastic ingestion as an evolutionary trap: Toward a holistic understanding.* https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abh0945

[4] Murphy, E.L., Baechler, B. R., Roman, L. & Rochman, C. M. (2025). *A quantitative risk assessment framework for mortality due to macroplastic ingestion in seabirds, marine mammals, and sea turtles.* https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.2415492122

[5] CSIRO (2024). *Global Producer Responsibility for Plastic Pollution.* https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adj8275

[6] DCCEEW (2024). *Australian plastics flows and fates reporting.* https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/australian-plastic-flows-fates-reporting

[7] Belzagui, F., Buscio, V. Gutiérrez-Bouzán, C., Vilaseca,M. (2020). *Cigarette butts as a microfiber source with a microplastic level of concern.* https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0048969720376968

[8] WWF (2021). *Ending Cigarette Butt Pollution.* https://irp.cdn-website.com/ed061800/files/uploaded/WWF-Australia-Ending-cigarette-butt-pollution-3Dec21.pdf

[9] Slaughter, E., Gersberg, R. M., Watanabe, K., Rudolph, J., Stransky, C., & Novotny, T. E. (2011). *Toxicity of cigarette butts, and their chemical components, to marine and freshwater fish.* https://doi.org/10.1136/tc.2010.040170

[10] Green, A. L. R., Putschew, A., & Nehls, T. (2014). *Littered cigarette as a source of nicotine in urban waters.* https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0022169414004107?via%3Dihub

[11] Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance (2025). *Cigarette filters in the Global Plastics Treaty.* https://files.ggtc.world/uploads/2025-07-31/13-35-01-002594/Aug25INC5.2_%20Main%20brief%20(1).pdf

[12] Chair's Text (2024). *Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.* https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/api/core/bitstreams/4867ee11-1c49-4ac6-b5e7-f622358fc0c1/content

[13] ACCC (2025). *Determination: Application for authorisation AA1000695 lodged by Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia Limited.* https://www.accc.gov.au/system/files/public-registers/documents/Final%20Determination%20-%2012.11.25%20-%20PR%20-%20AA1000695%20SPSA_0.pdf?ref=0&download=y

[14] APCO (2024). *2030 Strategic Plan.* https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/2030%20Strategic%20Plan

[15] APCO (2024). *Australian Packaging Consumption & Recovery Data 2022-2023.* https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/APCO%20Australian%20Packaging%20Consumption%20and%20Recovery%20Data%202022-23

[16] Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (2025). *Recycle Rewards FAQs.* https://nre.tas.gov.au/environment/recycle-rewards/recycle-rewards-faqs

[17] Korycki, L. (2025). *NSW, SA, NT expand Container Deposit Schemes.* https://wastemanagementreview.com.au/nsw-sa-nt-expand-container-deposit-schemes/

[18] Korycki, L. (2025). *NSW, SA, NT expand Container Deposit Schemes.* https://wastemanagementreview.com.au/nsw-sa-nt-expand-container-deposit-schemes/

[19] NTEPA (2025). *Container Deposit Scheme.* https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-environment/container-deposit-scheme#Expanded-CDS

[20] National Retail Association (2025). *Current Status of Plastic Legislation.* https://www.nationalretail.org.au/app/uploads/2024/03/National-Retail-Association-SUPs-summary-1-Sep-2025.pdf

[21] National Retail Association (2025). *Current Status of Plastic Legislation.* https://www.nationalretail.org.au/app/uploads/2024/03/National-Retail-Association-SUPs-summary-1-Sep-2025.pdf

[22] Cleanaway (2023). *Explosive waste!* https://www.cleanaway.com.au/newsroom/explosive-waste

[23] National Retail Association (2025). *Current Status of Plastic Legislation.* https://www.nationalretail.org.au/app/uploads/2024/03/National-Retail-Association-SUPs-summary-1-Sep-2025.pdf

[24] Roman, L., Hardesty, B.D., Hindell, M.A., & Wilcox, C (2019). *A quantitative analysis linking seabird mortality and marine debris ingestion.* https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-36585-9

[25] National Retail Association (2025). *Current Status of Plastic Legislation.* https://www.nationalretail.org.au/app/uploads/2024/03/National-Retail-Association-SUPs-summary-1-Sep-2025.pdf

[26] AMCS (2025). *Cutting Plastic Pollution at the Source: Opportunities for improving packaging in Australia.* https://www.marineconservation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/AMCS_CuttingPlastics_Online.pdf

[27] NSW EPA (2025). *NSW Plastics Plan 2.0.* https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-11/25p4639-nsw-plastics-plan-2.0.pdf

[28] Schuyler, Q., Willis, K., Lawson, TJ., Mann, V., Wilcox, C., & Hardesty, B.D., (2020). CSIRO. *Handbook of Survey Methodology.* https://publications.csiro.au/publications/publication/PIcsiro:EP178700

[29] DCCEEW (2024). *Australian plastics flows and fates reporting.* https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/australian-plastic-flows-fates-reporting

[30] ACCC (2025). *Determination: Application for authorisation AA1000695 lodged by Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia Limited.* https://www.accc.gov.au/system/files/public-registers/documents/Final%20Determination%20-%2012.11.25%20-%20PR%20-%20AA10000695%20SPSA_0.pdf?ref=0&download=y

[31] APCO (2024). *Australian Packaging Consumption & Recovery Data 2022-2023.* https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/APCO%20Australian%20Packaging%20Consumption%20and%20Recovery%20Data%202022-23

[32] Seamless (2024). *Addressing clothing waste by transforming the way we choose, enjoy and recycle clothing in Australia.* https://www.seamlessaustralia.com/

[33] European Parliament (2025). *Fast fashion: EU laws for sustainable textile consumption.* https://www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/en/article/20201208STO93327/fast-fashion-eu-laws-for-sustainable-textile-consumption#eu-legislation-for-more-sustainability-in-fashion-10

[34] WWF (2021). *Ending Cigarette Butt Pollution.* https://irp.cdn-website.com/ed061800/files/uploaded/WWF-Australia-Ending-cigarette-butt-pollution-3Dec21.pdf

[35] State of NSW and Environment Protection Authority (2019). *Identifying Effective Strategies to Reduce Cigarette Butt Litter.* https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/19p1840-butt-litter-trial-report.pdf

[36] National Retail Association (2025). *Current Status of Plastic Legislation.* https://www.nationalretail.org.au/app/uploads/2024/03/National-Retail-Association-SUPs-summary-1-Sep-2025.pdf

[37] CSIRO (2024). *Global Producer Responsibility for Plastic Pollution.* https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adj8275

[38] UNOC (2017). *Factsheet: Marine Pollution.*

[39] Blue Environment, AMCS & WWF (2023). *Climate Impacts of Plastic Consumption in Australia.* https://www.marineconservation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/AMCS-WWF-Climate-impacts-of-plastic-consumption-in-Australia-Summary-report-July-2023.pdf

[40] Blue Environment, AMCS & WWF (2023). *Climate Impacts of Plastic Consumption in Australia.* https://www.marineconservation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/AMCS-WWF-Climate-impacts-of-plastic-consumption-in-Australia-Summary-report-July-2023.pdf

[41] CSIRO (2024). *Global Producer Responsibility for Plastic Pollution.* https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.adj8275

[42] Charles, D., Kimman,L., & Saran, N. (2021). *Minderoo Foundation. Plastic waste makers index: revealing the source of the single-use plastics crisis.* https://cdn.minderoo.org/content/uploads/2021/05/27094234/20211105-Plastic-Waste-Makers-Index.pdf

[43] DCCEEW (2024). *Australian plastics flows and fates reporting.* https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/australian-plastic-flows-fates-reporting

[44] Anderson, L & Gbor, N (2024). *Plastic Waste in Australia and the Recycling Greenwash.* https://australiainstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/P1482-Plastic-Waste-in-Australia-Web-1.pdf

[45] APCO (2024). *Australian Packaging Consumption & Recovery Data 2022-2023.* https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/APCO%20Australian%20Packaging%20Consumption%20and%20Recovery%20Data%202022-23

[46] APCO (2024). *Australian Packaging Consumption & Recovery Data 2022-2023.* https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/APCO%20Australian%20Packaging%20Consumption%20and%20Recovery%20Data%202022-23

[47] APCO (2024). *Australian Packaging Consumption & Recovery Data 2022-2023.* https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/APCO%20Australian%20Packaging%20Consumption%20and%20Recovery%20Data%202022-23

[48] DCCEEW (2021). *National Plastics Plan Summary* https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/publications/national-plastics-plan-summary#:~:text=Every%20year%20in%20Australia%20approximately,leaks%20into%20the%20marine%20environment

[49] DCCEEW (2025). *Australian Plastics Flows and Fates Reporting.* https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/australian-plastic-flows-fates-reporting

[50] DCCEEW (2024). *Australian Plastics Flows and Fates Reporting.* https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/plastics-and-packaging/australian-plastic-flows-fates-reporting

[51] DCCEEW (2021). *National Plastics Plan Summary* https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/publications/national-plastics-plan-summary#:~:text=Every%20year%20in%20Australia%20approximately,leaks%20into%20the%20marine%20environment

[52] DCCEEW (2024). *Australia's Circular Economy Framework.* https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/circular-economy/framework

[53] National Retail Association (2025). *Current Status of Plastic Legislation.* https://www.nationalretail.org.au/app/uploads/2024/03/National-Retail-Association-SUPs-summary-1-Sep-2025.pdf

[54] National Retail Association (2025). *Current Status of Plastic Legislation.* https://www.nationalretail.org.au/app/uploads/2024/03/National-Retail-Association-SUPs-summary-1-Sep-2025.pdf

[55] NSW EPA (2025). *NSW Plastics Plan 2.0.* https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-11/25p4639-nsw-plastics-plan-2.0.pdf

[56] National Retail Association (2025). *Current Status of Plastic Legislation.*
https://www.nationalretail.org.au/app/uploads/2024/03/National-Retail-Association-SUPs-summary-1-Sep-2025.pdf

[57] Roman, L., Hardesty, B.D., Hindell, M.A., & Wilcox, C (2019). *A quantitative analysis linking seabird mortality and marine debris ingestion.*
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-36585-9

[58] National Retail Association (2025). *Current Status of Plastic Legislation.*
https://www.nationalretail.org.au/app/uploads/2024/03/National-Retail-Association-SUPs-summary-1-Sep-2025.pdf

[59] National Retail Association (2025). *Current Status of Plastic Legislation.*
https://www.nationalretail.org.au/app/uploads/2024/03/National-Retail-Association-SUPs-summary-1-Sep-2025.pdf

[60] WWF (2021). *Ending Cigarette Butt Pollution.*
https://irp.cdn-website.com/ed061800/files/uploaded/WWF-Australia-Ending-cigarette-butt-pollution-3Dec21.pdf

[61] NSW EPA (2025). *NSW Plastics Plan 2.0.*
https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-11/25p4639-nsw-plastics-plan-2.0.pdf

[62] Greenpeace (2025). *No More Compromise: Groups Push Australia to Finalise Strong and Binding Global Plastics Treaty.*
https://www.greenpeace.org.au/news/no-more-compromise-groups-push-australia-to-finalise-strong-and-binding-global-plastics-treaty/

[63] Bridge to Busan (2025). *Declaration on Primary Plastic Polymers.*
https://www.bridgetobusan.com/ppp

[64] *SPREP (2024). Scientists unite to create Declaration on strong Plastics Treaty.*
https://www.sprep.org/news/scientists-unite-to-create-declaration-on-strong-plastics-treaty

[65] Stop Tobacco Pollution Alliance (2025). *Cigarette filters in the Global Plastics Treaty.*
https://files.ggtc.world/uploads/2025-07-31/13-35-01-002594/Aug25INC5.2_%20Main%20brief%20(1).pdf

[66] Office of the Surgeon General, United States Department of Health and Human Services (2014). *Health Consequences of Smoking, Surgeon General fact sheet.*
https://www.hhs.gov/surgeongeneral/reports-and-publications/tobacco/consequences-smokingfactsheet/index.html

[67] US Department of Health and Human Services (2014). *The Health Consequences of Smoking—50 Years of Progress.*
https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK179276/

[68] Harris, B. (2011). *The intractable cigarette 'filter problem'.*
https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/21504917/

[69] World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (2024). *Tobacco and the environment.*
https://fctc.who.int/newsroom/spotlight/environment

[70] World Health Organization (2022). *WHO raises alarm on tobacco industry environmental impact.*
https://www.who.int/news/item/31-05-2022-who-raises-alarm-on-tobacco-industry-environmental-impact

[71] Green, A. L. R., Putschew, A., & Nehls, T. (2014). *Littered cigarette as a source of nicotine in urban waters.*
https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0022169414004107?via%3Dihub

[72] Chair's Text (2024). *Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.*
https://wedocs.unep.org/rest/api/core/bitstreams/4867ee11-1c49-4ac6-b5e7-f622358fc0c1/content

[73] ACCC (2025). *Determination: Application for authorisation AA1000695 lodged by Soft Plastic Stewardship Australia Limited.*
https://www.accc.gov.au/system/files/public-registers/documents/Final%20Determination%20-%2012.11.25%20-%20PR%20-%20AA1000695%20SPSA_0.pdf?ref=0&download=y

[74] Hughson, L (2025). *iQRenew SPEC facility opens doors to stakeholders.*
https://www.packagingnews.com.au/latest/iqrenew-spec-facility-opens-doors-to-stakeholders#:~:text=Closing%20the%20infrastructure%20gap&text=According%20to%20iQRenew%20managing%20director,these%20gain%20traction%20in%20Australia.%E2%80%9D

[75] SPSA (2025). *Insights into Soft Plastic Collection Pilots and Consumer Demand from Australia, New Zealand and UK.* Global Stewardship Playbook Webinar, December 4.

[76] APCO (2024). *Australian Packaging Consumption Recovery Data 2022-23.*
https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/APCO%20Australian%20Packaging%20Consumption%20and%20Recovery%20Data%202022-23

[77] APCO (2024). *Australian Packaging Consumption Recovery Data 2022-23.*
https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/APCO%20Australian%20Packaging%20Consumption%20and%20Recovery%20Data%202022-23

[78] Australian Marine Conservation Society & Boomerang Alliance (2025). *Unwrapped: Plastic Use in Australian Supermarkets.*
https://www.marineconservation.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/3503_AMCS_SUPE-SupermarketsReport_2025_v08LR.pdf

[79] APCO (2024). *Australian Packaging Consumption & Recovery Data 2022-2023.*
https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/APCO%20Australian%20Packaging%20Consumption%20and%20Recovery%20Data%202022-23

[80] APCO (2024). *Australian Packaging Consumption & Recovery Data 2022-2023.*
https://documents.packagingcovenant.org.au/public-documents/APCO%20Australian%20Packaging%20Consumption%20and%20Recovery%20Data%202022-23

[81] Senate Environment and Communications References Committee (2025). *No time to waste – Waste reduction and recycling policies.*
https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Wastereduction/Report

[82] European Union (2024). *Iregulation – EU – 2025/40 – EN – EUR-Lex. Europea.eu.*
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/40/oj

[83] Blue Environment, Australian Marine Conservation Society and WWF Australia (2023). *Carbon emissions assessment of Australian plastics consumption.*
https://assets.wwf.org.au/image/upload/Blue_Environment_Carbon_emissions_of_Australian_plastics_Full_report?_a=ATO2Bcc0

[84] Boomerang Alliance (2025). *Choosing to Reuse: A proposed strategy for the future.*
https://assets.nationbuilder.com/boomerangalliance/pages/77/attachments/original/1761095843/Joint_Allies_Reuse_Strategy_Letter_FINAL_Oct_2025_.pdf?1761095843

[85] DCCEEW (2024). *Australia's Circularity Framework.*
https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/circular-economy/framework

[86] TOMRA (2024). *Tomra Reuse City Solution Pilot.* https://www.tomra.com/reusable-takeaway-packaging/projects/aarhus

[87] Woodford Folk Festival (2025). *The Only Planet.* https://woodfordfolkfestival.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/The-Only-Planet-WFF2526-colour-version.pdf#:~:text=REUSABLE%20BAR%20CUPS.%20Reusable%20cups%20save%20over,emissions%20and%20the%20impacts%20involved%20with%20remanufacture.

[88] NSW EPA (2025). *NSW Plastics Plan 2.0.* https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-11/25p4639-nsw-plastics-plan-2.0.pdf

[89] Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania (2025). *Recycle Rewards FAQs.* https://nre.tas.gov.au/environment/recycle-rewards/recycle-rewards-faqs

[90] Productivity Commission Circular Economy Enquiry (2024): *Submission from Western Australia Return Recycle Renew Limited.* https://assets.pc.gov.au/387463/sub087-circular-economy.pdf?VersionId=o71umi08vnh82_zxCtK_Kyhw4eNbw6c.

[91] Hardesty, D. B., Schuyler, Q. & Wilcox, C (2018). *Deposit schemes reduce drink containers in the ocean by 40%* https://theconversation.com/deposit-schemes-reduce-drink-containers-in-the-ocean-by-40-91897

[92] Clean Up Australia (2017). *NSW State Fact Sheet.* https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/o9mpyznbiekm1pbd7r17b/ACz-fvgTlrDQYnf8EFeaGYE?dl=0&e=2&preview=NSW.pdf&rlkey=jlzkowoo6o7i55drvelqmwwme

[93] Clean Up Australia (2019). *QLD State Fact Sheet.* https://www.cleanup.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/QLD_Rubbish-Report_2019.pdf

[94] Queensland Government (2024). *Parliamentary Inquiry launched into Queensland's container refund scheme.* https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/102057#:~:text=The%20scheme%2C%20administered%20by%20Container,well%20short%20of%20that%20target.

[95] Reloop (2022). *Deposit return systems: How they perform.* https://www.reloopplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Fact-Sheet-Performance-22Sept2022.pdf

[96] Reloop (2022). *Deposit return systems: How they perform.* https://www.reloopplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Fact-Sheet-Performance-22Sept2022.pdf

[97] HEPA (2023). *Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) Behaviour Change National Research.* https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/files/15790_hepa_cds_national_research_report_nov2023.pdf

[98] SA EPA (2025). Container Deposit Scheme. https://www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental_info/waste_recycling/container_deposit

[99] Korycki, L. (2025). *NSW, SA, NT expand Container Deposit Schemes.* https://wastemanagementreview.com.au/nsw-sa-nt-expand-container-deposit-schemes/

[100] Korycki, L. (2025). *NSW, SA, NT expand Container Deposit Schemes.* https://wastemanagementreview.com.au/nsw-sa-nt-expand-container-deposit-schemes/

[101] NTEPA (2025). *Container Deposit Scheme.* https://ntepa.nt.gov.au/your-environment/container-deposit-scheme#Expanded-CDS

[102] King, S., Boxall, N. & Bhatt, A.I. *Lithium battery recycling in Australia.* https://doi.org/10.25919/5b69ec381e06c

[103] King, S., Boxall, N. & Bhatt, *A.I. Lithium battery recycling in Australia.* https://doi.org/10.25919/5b69ec381e06c

[104] The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (2022). *National Waste Report 2022.* https://www.dcceew.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/national-waste-report-2022.pdf

[105] NSW EPA (2024). *NSW leads the charge on mandatory battery safety.* https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/news/media-releases/2024/epamedia241211-nsw-leads-the-charge-on-mandatory-battery-safety#:~:text=Battery%20fires%20are%20a%20growing,why%20urgent%20action%20is%20needed.

[106] B-Cycle & Battery Stewardship Council (2025). *Positive Charge: FY25 Report.* https://bcycle.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/B-cycle-Positive-Charge-Report-20251212-web.pdf

[107] Australian Senate's Environment and Communications References Committee (2025). *No Time to Waste.* 'Chapter 4 – Product Stewardship Schemes'. https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Environment_and_Communications/Wastereduction/Report/Chapter_4_-_Product_stewardship_schemes#_ftn15

[108] Total Environment Centre (February, 2024). *Battery Recycling Crisis.* https://assets.nationbuilder.com/boomerangalliance/pages/4332/attachments/original/1708405782/Battery_Recycling_Crisis_Report_Total_Environment_Centre_242020.pdf?1708405782

[109] Queensland Government (2025). *Queensland powers ahead with Battery Collection Program.* https://statements.qld.gov.au/statements/103989#:~:text=Crisafulli%20Government%20making%20it%20easier,'pop%2Dup'%20locations.

[110] NSW EPA (2025). *Embedded Batteries.* https://www.epa.nsw.gov.au/Your-environment/Recycling-and-reuse/household-recycling-overview/embedded-batteries

[111] Charles, D., Kimman,L., & Saran, N. (2021). *Minderoo Foundation. Plastic waste makers index: revealing the source of the single-use plastics crisis.* https://cdn.minderoo.org/content/uploads/2021/05/27094234/20211105-Plastic-Waste-Makers-Index.pdf

[112] DCCEEW (2021). *National Plastics Plan Summary* https://www.dcceew.gov.au/environment/protection/waste/publications/national-plastics-plan-summary#:~:text=Every%20year%20in%20Australia%20approximately,leaks%20into%20the%20marine%20environment

[113] Ellen Macarthur Foundation (2024). *Circular economy principles.* https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/circular-economy-principles

Level 4, 233 Castlereagh St,
Sydney NSW 2000

T: 02 8197 3400
ABN: 93 003 884 991

cleanup.org.au

Get Social!

Clean Up