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Clean Up Australia Day calls for 700,000 volunteers to Step Up in 2020

Volunteer registrations for Clean Up Australia Day 2020 opened today with an appeal to Australians to step up on **Sunday 1 March**, to reduce the amount of waste in the environment.

Clean Up Australia Chairman Pip Kiernan said Australia creates 2.5 million tonnes of plastic waste each year¹. Only 12% of this is recycled with the rest ending up in our parks, roadsides, bush, waterways, oceans or in landfill as rubbish.

"We are calling on Australians to step up to clean up, and join us on Sunday 1 March to collect as much of this waste as we can before it causes harm," Ms Kiernan said.



Clean Up Australia Day is the nation's largest community-based mobilisation event, and last year more than 680,000 volunteers removed over 15,000 ute loads of rubbish from the 6,901 registered locations across the country.

"It's our 30th anniversary in 2020," Ms Kiernan said. "To celebrate that milestone, we'd love to see 700,000 Australians cleaning up at 8,000 sites nationally on March 1."

Clean Up Australia is more than just volunteers picking up rubbish. The charity works with community, business, schools and governments all year round to reduce waste and fix waste problems.

"For 30 years now we've been cleaning up Australia. But Australians are creating more waste than ever, so we need more help. If people are unable to join a Clean Up on March 1, they can step up by donating \$20 to help us all year round," Ms Kiernan said.

Funds raised through donations are allocated to the provision of educational resources and clean up materials provided free of charge to community, school and youth groups across the nation, throughout the year.

To register your Clean Up or make a donation go to <u>cleanup.org.au</u>



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Photo caption: Clean Up Australia Chairman, Pip Kiernan

[1] National Waste Report 2018, Department of the Environment and Energy

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About Clean Up Australia:

Founded by Ian Kiernan, AO in 1993, Clean Up Australia is one of the country's most recognised and trusted environmental organisations, inspiring and empowering communities to clean up, fix up and conserve our environment. More than 17.7 million Australians have participated in a Clean Up activity over the past 30 years and over that time 35 million hours of volunteer time have been donated to Clean Up activities benefiting our environment.