THE 2019 RUBBISH REPORT

NATIONAL

Clean Up

Sites registered:
7,798
(8,304 in 2018)

Estimated Rubbish Removed:
17,313.20
UTE LOADS
(16,942.2 in 2018)

Estimated Volunteers:
745,823
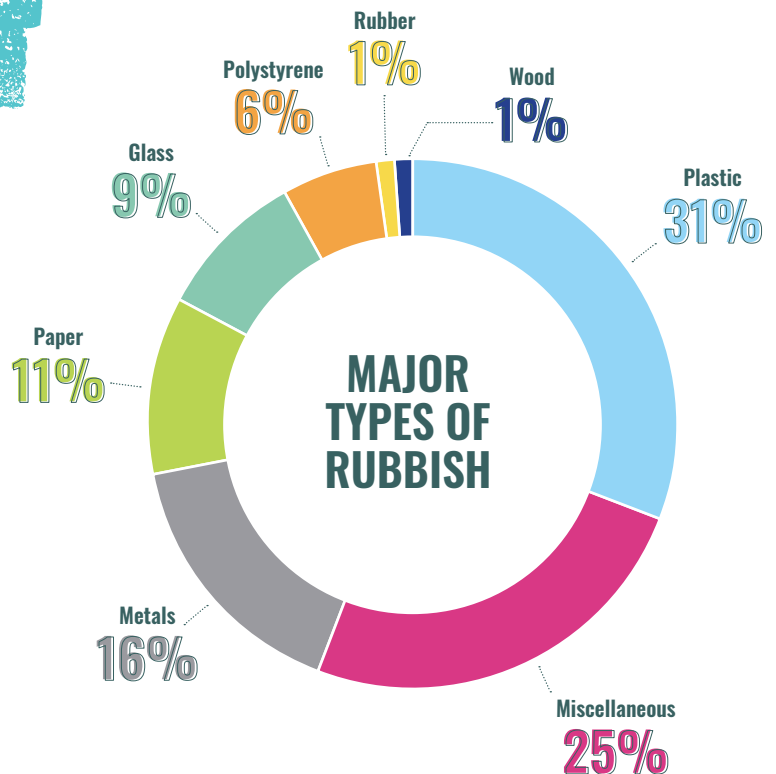(708,258 in 2018)

Volunteer hours:
1,419,646
(1,416,516 in 2018)

The 2019 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers.

Nationally, the Report is based on the count of 445,251 rubbish items from 1,002 surveyed locations [420,265 items from 895 locations in 2018].
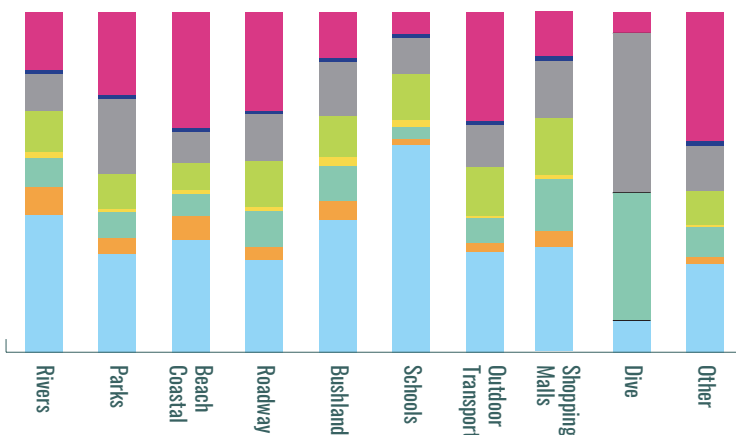
NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2018

• Miscellaneous items increased by 9%, metals by 3% and polystyrene by 1%
• Plastics decreased by 8%, glass by 3%, paper and wood by 1%
• Rubber remained consistent

MAJOR TYPES OF RUBBISH

- Rubber **1%**
- Polystyrene **6%**
- Wood **1%**
- Glass **9%**
- Plastic **31%**
- Paper **11%**
- Metals **16%**
- Miscellaneous **25%**

RUBBISH TYPE BY LOCATION

Legend: ■ Miscellaneous ■ Wood ■ Metals ■ Paper ■ Rubber ■ Glass ■ Polystyrene ■ Plastic

Locations: Rivers, Parks, Beach Coastal, Roadway, Bushland, Schools, Outdoor Transport, Shopping Malls, Dive, Other

• Plastics are the most common item reported across all locations
• 83% of reported plastics were found in our waterways [rivers + beach/coastal areas + dive sites]
• Schools reported an increased percentage of plastics [up by 21% from 2018] – primarily reflective of food packaging
• Miscellaneous items [prime individual items of which is cigarette butts] are mostly reported in beach and coastal areas, followed by along roadsides and riverbanks
• Parks, as well as attracting plastics, are also where a lot of metal items are found – the percentage in 2019 was 8% higher than last year. Most common metal items are beverage containers

• Glass [most notably beverage containers] was common along roadsides, in bushland, shops and malls and at the dive site. Bottles not included in a container deposit/refund scheme are now the most likely culprits here – although volunteers are still reporting eligible containers as they hunt them for refunds.
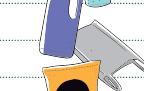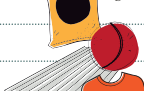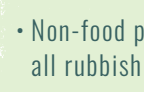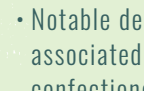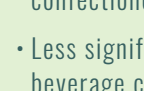
TOP 10 RUBBISH ITEMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL RUBBISH SURVEYED
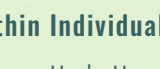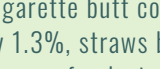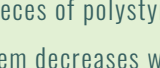
GROUPED DATA
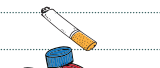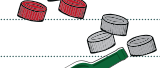*Grouped Data made up 98.7% [97.2% in 2018] of surveyed rubbish.

1	NON-FOOD PACKAGING - 36.4%
2	BEVERAGE CONTAINERS - 17.9%
3	FOOD PACKAGING - 13.9%
4	BEVERAGE RELATED RUBBISH - 13.9%
5	HOUSEHOLD ITEMS - 5.8%
6	PLASTIC BAGS - 4.0%
7	CHIP & CONFECTIONERY WRAPPERS - 2.5%
8	TOYS, SPORTING EQUIP, ROPES AND STRAPS - 1.7%
9	CLOTHING - 1.5%
10	CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS - 1.1%

INDIVIDUAL ITEM COUNT
*Individual Item Count Top 10 data = 53.2% [50% in 2018]

1	CIGARETTE BUTTS - 22%
2	PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS & LIDS - 6.4%
3	METAL BOTTLE CAPS & LIDS - 4.1%
4	GLASS ALCOHOLIC BOTTLES - 3.7%
5	GLASS SOFT DRINK BOTTLES - 3.2%
6	STRAWS - 3.1%
7	PET DRINK CONTAINERS - 2.9%
8	UNIDENTIFIABLE PLASTICS - 2.7%
9	PIECES OF GLASS - 2.7%
10	PIECES OF POLYSTYRENE - 2.4%

NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2018

Within grouped data:

- Non-food packaging increased by 10.3% as a percentage of all rubbish reported

- Dumped household items increased by 3.8%, beverage related rubbish by 2.1% and toys, sporting equipment [0.1%]

- Notable decreases were reported in counts of items associated with food packaging [-5.0%] plus chip and confectionery wrappers [-4.2%]

- Less significant decreases were reported in counts of beverage containers [-0.4%], and plastic bags [-0.5%]

- Clothing and construction materials were added to the list in 2019, replacing sanitary and unidentifiable items.

Within Individual item counts:

- Cigarette butt counts increased by 7.2%, metal bottle caps by 1.3%, straws by 1%, miscellaneous plastics by 0.9% and pieces of polystyrene by 0.1%

- Item decreases were less significant, but notable – plastic caps and lids [-1.9%] and pieces of glass [-1.6%],

- PET drink bottles decreased their count by 0.6%, glass alcohol bottles by 0.9%, and soft-drink bottles by 0.2%

- Metal caps and lids, unidentifiable plastic items and pieces of polystyrene made their way back onto the Top 10 in 2019, replacing chip and confectionery wrappers, small pieces of paper and alcoholic beverage containers.

FAVOURITE CLEAN UP SITES

While waterways [Rivers/Creeks, Beach/Coastal and Dive sites] are cumulatively the most favoured locations across the country, reporting 35% of total waste, Parks continue to be the single most surveyed Clean Up site type, yielding 22% of counted rubbish.

Shops/Malls reported the highest average number of items per site in 2019 [at737], followed by Outdoor Transport areas, and then Beach/Coastal areas.

Site Type	Number of sites	Number of items found	% of total waste	Average no. of items per site
Rivers/Creeks	189	74,314	17%	393
Parks	209	96,454	22%	462
Beach/Coastal	153	82,069	18%	536
Roadway	154	63,396	14%	412
Bushland	127	51,014	11%	402
School Grounds	83	28,850	6%	348
Outdoor Transport	6	3,610	1%	602
Shops/malls	16	11,790	3%	737
Dive Site	1	43	0%	43
Other	64	33,711	8%	527
Totals	1,002	445,251	100%	4,462

NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2018

- The largest increase in average counts was recorded in Shops/Malls [up by 324 items]

- Other increases were noted in Parks [up by 47], Beach/Coastal areas [up by 42], Roadways [up by 34]

- Outdoor Transport areas reported the largest decrease in average counts with 900 less than 2018

- Average number per site count decreases were also reported at Other [generally mixed] sites which reduced by 440 in 2019, in School Grounds [down by 180] and Bushland [down by 4]

- While Dive site average counts dramatically reduced by 1535 items, this is not considered to be significant given that only one site was surveyed in 2019 [compared to 4 in 2018].

Clean Up

www.cleanup.org.au