



MEDIA RELEASE

1 MARCH 2020

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA VOLUNTEERS STEP UP IN 2020

Despite bushfires, floods and drought, Australians have, over the last week, *Stepped Up to Clean Up* with a **3%** increase in registered locations over 2019, equating to nearly 1.3 million hours of volunteer time expected for the 2020 Clean Up Australia campaign.

Across the nation, it is anticipated that nearly 635 thousand volunteers working at 7,038 registered sites will remove as much as 15.5 thousand tonnes of rubbish from their favourite parks, beaches, bushland, suburban streets and waterways.

Pip Kiernan, the Chairman of Clean Up Australia, noted how excited she is to see so many Australians taking up the challenge to *Step Up*.

"We've seen communities across Australia, with more urgency than ever, unite to clean up, fix up and conserve our environment," she said.

"As the nation's largest community-based mobilisation event, we're very well known for our days of action, however we also know that prevention is better than cure.

"It's time to take responsibility of our reliance on single-use packaging and plastics and begin to make the right environmental choices every day.

"We need to reduce the average of 10kg per week of rubbish we produce as individuals – so this year we're inviting Australians to think about how they can Step Up to Clean Up, whether that's using reusable coffee cups or refusing excess packaging, We're urging everyone to make small changes for a big impact."

The outcome is Clean Up is working throughout the year with community, businesses and governments to implement better environmental practices and resource recovery.

"While 2020 marks the milestone of a national container deposit/refund scheme and positive movement towards reducing single use plastics, there is still so much work to do," Pip Kiernan said.

"I would like to thank our wonderful volunteers, who have once again joined together to donate their time and energy. I am in awe of their ability to step up and take positive action," she added.

Working with limited resources, Clean Up Australia is a not-for-profit NGO, relying on

corporate sponsors and donors to supply funding and resources which allows us to provide free bags, gloves and other equipment all year round.

Donations can be made online www.cleanup.org.au

2020 Preliminary Results based on registered sites @ COB Saturday 29 Feb, announced Sunday 1 March 2020

State or Territory	Registered Sites	Estimated volunteer numbers	Predicted rubbish tonnage
ACT	133	164,403	292.6
NSW	2,826	285,922	6,217.2
NT	40	2,081	88
QLD	1,449	117,300	3,187.8
SA	444	33,261	976.8
TAS	218	17,686	479.6
VIC	1,410	105,951	3,102
WA	518	55,951	1,139.6
ESTIMATED TOTALS	7,038	634,553	15,483.6

Volunteer numbers and predicted rubbish tonnage are calculated based on End of Clean Up Reports -

ENDS

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About Clean Up Australia:

Founded by Ian Kiernan, AO, 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 18.3 million Australians have participated in a Clean Up over the past 30 years donating 36 million hours of time to actions benefiting our environment.

Clean Up Australia

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