

Clean Up Australia Day
3 March 2019
Business Clean Up Day
26 February 2019
Schools Clean Up Day
1 March 2019



Change starts with you.

There has never been a better time to take to our streets with West Australian food and beverage rubbish counts exceeding national averages

For immediate release - 14 February 2019: The 2018 Clean Up Australia Rubbish Report, compiled each year from data submitted by Clean Up volunteers, found that food and beverage related packaging were reported in higher quantities in Western Australia than the national average.

Litter directly associated with food packaging and beverages made up 63.1% of the rubbish reported by WA Clean Up volunteers, 7.4% above the national average of 55.7%. Of this, single use food packaging comprised 27%, beverage rubbish 11.1%, beverage containers 15.4% and chips and confectionary wrapper 9.6%.

Terrie-Ann Johnson, Managing Director of Clean Up Australia urges us all to think about how we can switch from single use packaging and take responsibility for our own litter when we are on the move.

“Change starts with you – and we need to make smarter choices every day.” said Terrie-Ann.

We need to reduce the amount of rubbish we produce as individuals and take simple actions such as carrying our reusable bags, replacing single use beverage cups and containers and choosing products that are not over packaged.

Plastic was once again the #1 type of rubbish reported, comprising 35% of the major sources of rubbish - a welcome decrease of 2% over the previous year, and 4% below the national average of 39%.

But that doesn't mean we can relax, with the Report supporting the warning from Clean Up Australia that plastics, with their inability to decompose, will, unless we take action today, continue to impact our environment, our natural heritage and ultimately human health.

Thirty years ago, Ian Kiernan AO predicted the problems that single-use plastics would pose. Since then we have seen ever-increasing dependence on plastic as a throw-away item and that needs to change. The choice is simple, take action or plastics will continue to be a problem well into the future,” said Terrie-Ann.

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Although cigarette butts at 8.6% of rubbish reported were well below the national average of 14.2%, smokers still need to smarten up their act as butts once again took first place in the Top 10 items list.

Most smokers are unaware of how cigarette butts impact our environment.

“The core of most cigarette filters is a form of plastic called cellulose acetate which is very slow to degrade, taking anything from 18 months to 10 years to break up. These filters are also full of toxins, which can leach into the ground and waterways, damaging living organisms that come into contact with them,” said Terrie-Ann.

“We all need to take responsibility for our choices.”

While parks were the most popular site surveyed in 2018, beaches/coastal areas recorded the highest percentage of total waste and waterways yielded the highest average number of items across the state.

“We still have a way to go to Clean Up Australia, so remember change starts with you!”

To register or join a 2019 Clean Up site go to: <http://cleanupaustraliaday.org.au>.

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To access the latest Clean Up Australia Day Rubbish Reports, more information, photos and arrange interviews please contact Tracey Wigg on 0419 141 266.

CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA

Clean Up Australia is a not for profit community based organisation founded by Ian Kiernan AO in 1989 to inspire and work with communities to clean up, fix up and conserve our environment.

Clean Up Australia is dedicated to developing sustainable solutions and addressing the critical issues that face us in the areas of waste, degrading waterways and landscapes. It provides a practical framework and support for all individuals to make a positive and effective contribution to the health of our environment.

For 30 years Australians have joined together to Clean Up Australia. During this time over 16 million Australians have donated more than 33 million hours, removing the equivalent of 350,000 ute-loads of rubbish from more than 178 thousand locations across the country.

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Since 1993 millions of people around the globe have also heeded the call under the banner of Clean Up the World, the global initiative the United Nations asked Kiernan to create and oversee. This year-round campaign engages an estimated 35 million volunteers in 130 countries annually, making it the largest community-based environmental campaign in the world.

THE WESTERN AUSTRALIA RUBBISH REPORT

- The 28th Annual Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by volunteers across WA during 2018
- Data = that returned by volunteers as part of their End of Clean Up Report, recording counts across 82 items
- In 2018, 51 reports were returned, providing valid data across 64 locations [10%]
- 211 bags were sorted by volunteers [38%] of rubbish reported at surveyed sites
- Clean Up Australia shares the data from the rubbish report with the CSIRO which uses it to help map litter hotspots reflecting the influence of weather and other events.

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