



# 2021 RUBBISH REPORT NEW SOUTH WALES

The 2021 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. Across NSW, the Report is based on the count of 114,067 rubbish items from 342 surveyed locations [115,256 items from 442 locations in 2020].

## 5,062

**SITES  
REGISTERED:**  
[3,039 in 2020]

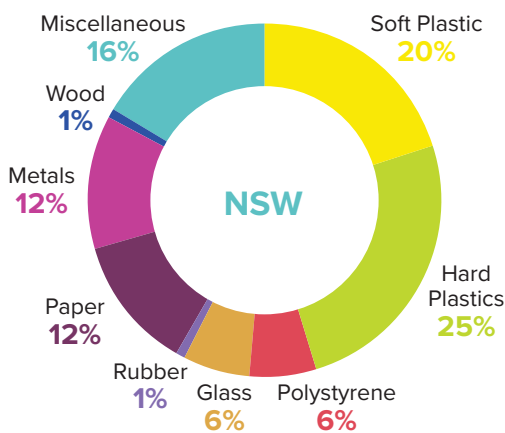
## 337,896

**ESTIMATED  
VOLUNTEERS**  
[297,076 in 2020]

## 675,792

**VOLUNTEER  
HOURS:**  
[594,152 in 2020]

## MAJOR TYPES OF RUBBISH REPORTED



## NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2020



Metals, rubber and wood remained on par with 2020

**5%↑  
SOFT PLASTICS**  
(as percentage of rubbish reported)

**1%↑  
HARD PLASTICS & POLY**

**5%↓  
GLASS**

**1%↓  
PAPER**

**2%↓  
MISCELLANEOUS**

2021 participation reflects the impact of COVID-19 on volunteer desire to join with their neighbours and friends to clean up their favourite locations.

Despite local lockdowns and restrictions, Australians continued to Step Up to Clean Up with a 25% increase in the number of estimated volunteers across the nation.

This clearly demonstrates the importance volunteers place on our local parks, streets, beaches, waterways and bushland.

## TOP 10 RUBBISH ITEMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL RUBBISH SURVEYED

GROUP ITEMS										
	<b>RANK #1</b> Non-Food Packaging <b>30%</b>	<b>RANK #2</b> Soft Plastics <b>19.8%</b>	<b>RANK #3</b> Beverage Containers <b>12.7%</b>	<b>RANK #4</b> Food Packaging <b>12.5%</b>	<b>RANK #5</b> Beverage Rubbish <b>11.1%</b>	<b>RANK #6</b> Household Items <b>5.0%</b>	<b>RANK #7</b> Construction Materials <b>2.7%</b>	<b>RANK #8</b> Sanitary Items <b>2.2%</b>	<b>RANK #9</b> Toys, Sporting Goods, Ropes <b>2.0%</b>	<b>RANK #10</b> Clothing <b>1.5%</b>

NOTABLE CHANGES	Top 5 rankings: align with national outcomes.			NSW volunteers reported higher than national average % counts within soft plastics, food packaging, beverage related rubbish [lid/caps/straws]			NSW reported the highest % of hard plastic as a rubbish type at 24%. This is 2.7% higher than the national average.		
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INDIVIDUAL ITEMS										
	<b>RANK #1</b> Cigarette Butts <b>12.1%</b>	<b>RANK #2</b> Other Soft Plastics <b>7.1%</b>	<b>RANK #3</b> Plastic Chip & Confectionery <b>6.6%</b>	<b>RANK #4</b> Bottle Caps & Lids <b>4.6%</b>	<b>RANK #5</b> Plastic Packaging <b>3.9%</b>	<b>RANK #6</b> Bottle Caps <b>3.2%</b>	<b>RANK #7</b> Glass Pieces <b>3.2%</b>	<b>RANK #8</b> Straws <b>2.8%</b>	<b>RANK #9</b> Alcoholic Bottles <b>2.7%</b>	<b>RANK #10</b> PET Drink Containers <b>2.7%</b>

NOTABLE CHANGES	Cigarette dominated the Top 10 Individual Items, closely followed by more familiar single use plastics			Other soft plastics, plastic chip & confectionery wrappers, plastic bottle caps and lids, and plastic packaging – all %s of which were above the national average.			Also above national average % were metal bottle caps and glass pieces – demonstrating that small stuff continues to be a problem.		
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\*Grouped Data made up 99.5% [99.6% in 2020] of surveyed rubbish

\*Individual Item Count Top 10 data = 49% [49.6% in 2020]

## FAVOURITE CLEAN UP SITES

NSW volunteers reported they removed higher than average rubbish counts at beaches, in bushland, shops/malls, school grounds, at outdoor transport and dive sites.

### NSW ranked:

**#1** nationally with rubbish counts at dive sites

**#2** outdoor transport and shops/malls

**#3** on beaches and in bushland



#### RIVER/CREEK/ WATERWAYS WATER STORAGE

Sites: **36**  
Items: **11,056**  
Total waste: **10%**  
Average # Items  
**307**

#### PARKS [INCL NAT PARKS]

Sites: **95**  
Items: **23,304**  
Total waste: **20%**  
Average # Items  
**245**

#### BEACH/COASTAL

Sites: **42**  
Items: **22,523**  
Total waste: **20%**  
Average # Items  
**536**

#### ROADSIDES

Sites: **65**  
Items: **21,369**  
Total waste: **19%**  
Average # Items  
**329**

#### FOOTPATHS

Sites: **31**  
Items: **9,424**  
Total waste: **8%**  
Average # Items  
**304**

#### PUBLIC BUSHLAND

Sites: **36**  
Items: **11,391**  
Total waste: **10%**  
Average # Items  
**316**

#### SHOPS/MALLS

Sites: **10**  
Items: **4,321**  
Total waste: **4%**  
Average # Items  
**432**

#### SCHOOL GROUND

Sites: **21**  
Items: **8,069**  
Total waste: **7%**  
Average # Items  
**384**

#### OUTDOOR TRANSPORT

Sites: **4**  
Items: **1,973**  
Total waste: **2%**  
Average # Items  
**493**

#### DIVE SITE

Sites: **2**  
Items: **637**  
Total waste: **1%**  
Average # Items  
**319**



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