



# 2021 RUBBISH REPORT QUEENSLAND

The 2021 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. Across QLD, the Report is based on the count of 82,900 rubbish items from 249 surveyed locations [122,358 items from 232 locations in 2020].

## 2,587

**SITES  
REGISTERED:**  
[1,617 in 2020]

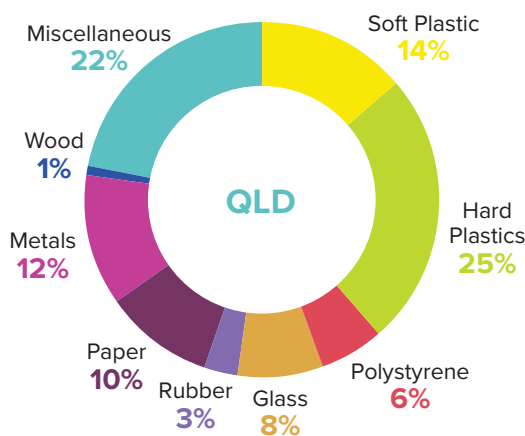
## 172,058

**ESTIMATED  
VOLUNTEERS**  
[141,229 in 2020]

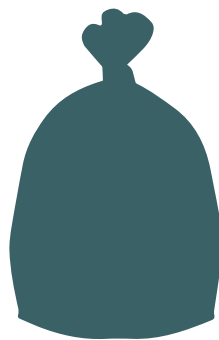
## 344,116

**VOLUNTEER  
HOURS:**  
[282,458 in 2020]

## MAJOR TYPES OF RUBBISH REPORTED



## NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2020



Soft plastics and wood remained on par with 2020

**3%↑**

**MISCELLANEOUS**  
(as percentage of rubbish reported)

**2%↑**

**PAPER & METAL**

**1%↑**

**POLYSTYRENE**

**10%↓**  
**GLASS**

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



**RANK #1**  
Non-Food Packaging  
**40.2%**



**RANK #2**  
Soft Plastics  
**14.1%**



**RANK #3**  
Food Packaging  
**11.5%**



**RANK #4**  
Beverage Rubbish  
**10.3%**



**RANK #5**  
Beverage Containers  
**9.9%**



**RANK #6**  
Household Items  
**4.6%**



**RANK #7**  
Construction Materials  
**3.1%**



**RANK #8**  
Toys, Sporting Goods, Ropes  
**2.5%**



**RANK #9**  
Sanitary Items  
**1.5%**



**RANK #10**  
Clothing  
**1.4%**

### NOTABLE CHANGES

Top 5 grouped items, while in a different order, are consistent with national findings.

Non-food packaging, beverage rubbish, construction materials, toys and clothing %s all came in above national findings.

### INDIVIDUAL ITEMS



**RANK #1**  
Cigarette Butts  
**17.6%**



**RANK #2**  
Miscellaneous Plastic  
**5.8%**



**RANK #3**  
Other Soft Plastics  
**5.7%**



**RANK #4**  
Chips & Confectionery  
**4.7%**



**RANK #5**  
Bottle Caps & Lids  
**4.4%**



**RANK #6**  
Glass Pieces  
**4.1%**



**RANK #7**  
Straws  
**3.3%**



**RANK #8**  
Foil Confectionery Wrappers  
**2.9%**



**RANK #9**  
Polystyrene Pieces  
**2.8%**



**RANK #10**  
Small Paper  
**2.5%**

### NOTABLE CHANGES

Cigarette Butts, while still dominating single item counts reduced by 5% over 2020.

We saw a significant reduction in beverage containers within these counts, evidence that the QLD container refund scheme is positively impacting our precious environment.

Small items remain an issue, littering 21.4% of single item counts.

\*Grouped Data made up 99.2% 99.6% in 2020 of surveyed rubbish

\*Individual Item Count Top 10 data = 53.7% [58.9% in 2020]

## FAVOURITE CLEAN UP SITES

QLD volunteers reported the third highest average counts of items within shops/malls and school grounds.



### RIVER/CREEK/ WATERWAYS WATER STORAGE

Sites: **41**  
Items: **13,747**  
Total waste: **17%**  
Average # Items  
**335**

### PARKS [INCL NAT PARKS]

Sites: **63**  
Items: **15,336**  
Total waste: **18%**  
Average # Items  
**243**

### BEACH/COASTAL

Sites: **28**  
Items: **12,385**  
Total waste: **15%**  
Average # Items  
**442**

### ROADSIDES

Sites: **39**  
Items: **13,135**  
Total waste: **16%**  
Average # Items  
**337**

### FOOTPATHS

Sites: **32**  
Items: **14,915**  
Total waste: **18%**  
Average # Items  
**466**

### PUBLIC BUSHLAND

Sites: **28**  
Items: **6,267**  
Total waste: **8%**  
Average # Items  
**224**

### SHOPS/MALLS

Sites: **3**  
Items: **1,293**  
Total waste: **2%**  
Average # Items  
**431**

### SCHOOL GROUNDS

Sites: **14**  
Items: **5,497**  
Total waste: **7%**  
Average # Items  
**393**

### OUTDOOR TRANSPORT

Sites: **1**  
Items: **326**  
Total waste: **0%**  
Average # Items  
**326**



## PARTNERS

#### Founding Partner



#### Partners



#### Media Partners



#### Suppliers