



2021 RUBBISH REPORT SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The 2021 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. Across SA, the Report is based on the count of 30,780 rubbish items from 67 surveyed locations [21,631 items from 86 locations in 2020].

882

**SITES
REGISTERED:**
[509 in 2020]

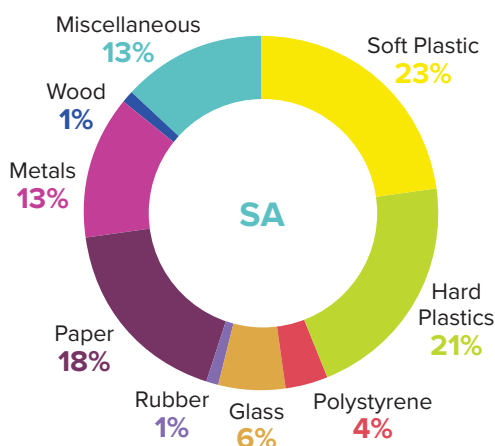
75,842

**ESTIMATED
VOLUNTEERS**
[35,439 in 2020]

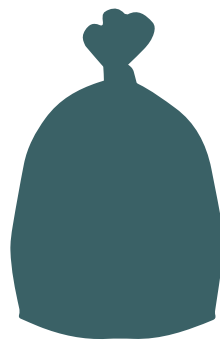
151,684

**VOLUNTEER
HOURS:**
[70,878 in 2020]

MAJOR TYPES OF RUBBISH REPORTED



NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2020



Hard plastics, rubber, wood and miscellaneous items remained on par with 2020

**12%↑
SOFT PLASTICS**
(as percentage of rubbish reported)

**4%↓
GLASS**

**6%↓
PAPER**

**1%↓
POLYSTYRENE**

**1%↓
METALS**

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 24.8%	RANK #2 Soft Plastics 23.2%	RANK #3 Food Packaging 13.7%	RANK #4 Beverage Rubbish 11.1%	RANK #5 Beverage Containers 9.4%	RANK #6 Household Items 8.1%	RANK #7 Sanitary Items 3.6%	RANK #8 Construction Materials 2.9%	RANK #9 Toys, Sporting Goods, Ropes 2.0%	RANK #10 Clothing 0.9%
NOTABLE CHANGES	Top 5 grouped items, while in a different order are consistent with national reports			SA volunteers reported above national % in soft plastics, food packaging, beverage rubbish, household items, sanitary items, construction materials and toys.			SA led Australia with highest % rankings in food packaging, beverage rubbish and household items.			

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS										
	RANK #1 Plastic Chip & Confectionery 10%	RANK #2 Cigarette Butts 9.1%	RANK #3 Food Bags 6.8%	RANK #4 Bottle Caps & Lids 6.0%	RANK #5 Small Paper 4.9%	RANK #6 Foil Confectionary Wrappers 4.5%	RANK #7 Napkins & Tissues 3.3%	RANK #8 Glass Pieces 3.2%	RANK #9 Bottle Caps 3.0%	RANK #10 Soft Plastics 2.6%
NOTABLE CHANGES	Within Individual items, SA recorded higher than national % in plastic chip & confectionery wrappers, plastic food bags, plastic bottle caps & lids, foil confectionary wrappers, glass pieces and metal bottle caps – reinforcing small stuff matters					SA was one of only 2 states where cigarette butts were NOT the #1 item reported. [other was TAS]				

*Grouped Data made up 99.7% [99.7% in 2020] of surveyed rubbish

*Individual Item Count Top 10 data = 53.2% [54.5% in 2020]

FAVOURITE CLEAN UP SITES

SA volunteers reported higher than national average rubbish counts at beaches, parks, along footpaths, in bushland and school grounds.

SA volunteers were the most productive nationally at SA beaches, in bushland and school grounds.



RIVER/CREEK/ WATERWAYS WATER STORAGE

Sites: **7**
Items: **1,675**
Total waste: **5%**
Average # Items
239

PARKS [INCL NAT PARKS]

Sites: **14**
Items: **4,404**
Total waste: **14%**
Average # Items
315

BEACH/COASTAL

Sites: **9**
Items: **5,684**
Total waste: **18%**
Average # Items
632

ROADSIDES

Sites: **14**
Items: **5,482**
Total waste: **18%**
Average # Items
392

FOOTPATHS

Sites: **10**
Items: **6,139**
Total waste: **20%**
Average # Items
614

PUBLIC BUSHLAND

Sites: **4**
Items: **2,969**
Total waste: **10%**
Average # Items
742

SHOPS/MALLS

Sites: **2**
Items: **365**
Total waste: **1%**
Average # Items
183

SCHOOL GROUND

Sites: **6**
Items: **4,008**
Total waste: **13%**
Average # Items
668

OTHER

Sites: **1**
Items: **55**
Total waste: **0%**
Average # Items
55



PARTNERS

Founding Partner



Partners



Media Partners



Suppliers