

# LITTER REPORT FY23 WA

During the financial year of 2023, Clean Up Australia continued to encourage volunteers across the nation to **Step Up to Clean Up**, by taking to their streets, beaches, parks, bushland and waterways to remove accumulated litter.

While over a million joined us last year across 17,139 sites the Litter Report FY23 is a snapshot of litter removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers during Clean Up Australia Day and Every Day Clean Ups across a portion of these sites. Across Western Australia, the Report is based on the count of 29,480 items from 112 surveyed locations (28,333 items from 115 locations in 2022).

## WA SITES REGISTERED:

1,637 (1,347 in 2022)

## WA ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS:

131,363 (131,385 in 2022)

## WA ESTIMATED VOLUNTEER HOURS:

262,726 (262,770 in 2022)

### MAJOR TYPES OF LITTER REPORTED

	FY23 Count	%
Soft Plastics	9,094	30.8%
Hard Plastics	6,918	23.5%
All Other Plastics	6,313	21.4%
Glass	1,477	5.0%
Rubber	122	0.4%
Paper/Cardboard	2,484	8.4%
Metal	2,010	6.8%
Wood	94	0.3%
E-Waste	222	0.8%
Miscellaneous	746	2.5%
	29,480	100.0%

### NOTABLE % CHANGES FROM 2022

↑ Increases:	↓ Decreases:	Unchanged:
Soft Plastics 4.2%	All Other Plastics 11%	Glass
Hard Plastics 5.6%	Rubber 0.5%	Metal
Paper/Cardboard 1%	Miscellaneous 0.9%	Wood
		E-Waste
		Miscellaneous

### TOP 10 GROUPED ITEMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL LITTER SURVEYED

Grouped Items	FY23 Count	%
Non-Food Packaging	9,260	31.4%
Soft Plastics	9,094	30.8%
Food Packaging	3,606	12.2%
Beverage Containers	3,438	11.7%
Household Items	1,365	4.6%
Beverage Litter	1,042	3.5%
Construction Materials	536	1.8%
Sanitary Items	356	1.2%
Clothing	342	1.2%
E-Waste	222	0.8%

#### NOTABLE CHANGES

There are a few changes in the top 10 grouped items when compared with 2022. Non-food packaging and soft plastics remain in the first two places, both increasing by 4%. Soft plastics increases may have been influenced by the collapse of REDcycle in November 2022.

Food packaging has moved to third place with an increase of 1%, followed by beverage containers moving from third to fourth place with a decrease of 3% and beverage litter such as straws, bottle tops and corks, moving from fifth to sixth place with a decrease of 3%.

The good news is sanitary items decreased by 5%, reflecting a significant reduction in the number of face masks reported.

All other items show minimal percentage changes over 2022.

### TOP 10 INDIVIDUAL ITEMS AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL LITTER SURVEYED

Individual Items	FY23 Count	%
Soft Plastic Pieces	7,259	24.6%
Cigarette Butts	5,825	19.8%
Plastic Beverage Bottles (single-use)	1,455	4.9%
Chips and Confectionery Bags	1,299	4.4%
Aluminium Beverage Cans	1,293	4.4%
Takeaway Coffee Cups	936	3.2%
Glass Pieces	874	3.0%
Straws	857	2.9%
Takeaway Food Containers	845	2.9%
Pieces of plastic	662	2.2%

#### NOTABLE CHANGES

There are no significant changes from 2022 to FY23, except for the order of individual items. Soft plastic pieces remain in first place with an increase of 4%, followed by cigarette butts which remain unchanged as a percentage of reported litter. Chips and confectionery bags show an increase of 1% moving to fourth place from sixth place.

A decrease of 1% in straws and plastic fast food takeaway containers as a percentage of all litter reported may reflect bans on plastic straws and unlidded plastic takeaway containers which came into effect in WA in July, 2022.

### LITTER DISTRIBUTION BY SITE TYPE

WA	Number of sites	% of total litter count
Coastal/Beach	21	22.6%
Footpath	8	14.4%
Outdoor Transport	2	2.1%
Park	21	9.4%
Public Bushland	11	6.0%
River/Creek	16	15.2%
Roadway	13	20.0%
School Grounds	17	9.8%
Shops/Mall	1	0.1%
Other	2	0.3%