

# NATIONAL RUBBISH REPORT 2022

Clean Up



The 2022 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. Across the nation, the Report is based on the count of 366,144 rubbish items from 1,075 surveyed locations (379,606 items from 944 locations in 2021).

## SITES REGISTERED

**12,474**  
(13,031 in 2021)

## ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS

**934,433**  
(908,437 in 2021)

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

**1,868,886**  
(1,816,874 in 2021)

## NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2021

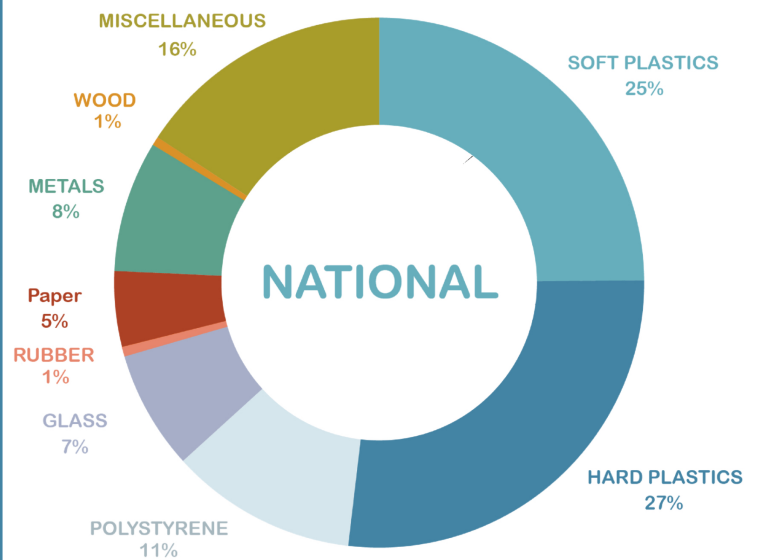
Soft plastics by 7%  
Hard plastics by 5%  
Polystyrene by 5%  
Paper by 7%  
Metals by 5%  
Glass by 2%  
Misc items by 2%

Rubber and wood maintained on-par at 1%

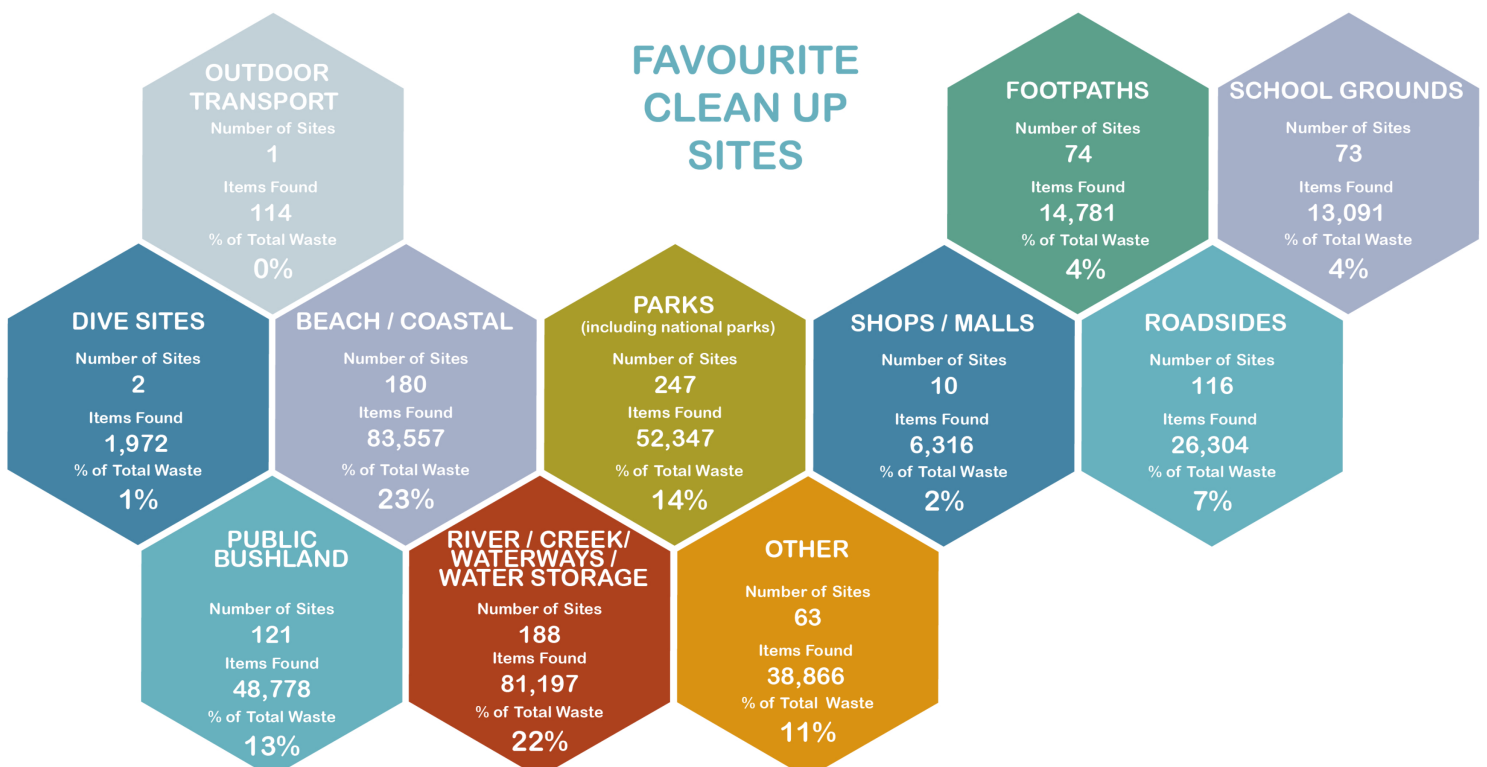
Reflecting volunteer feedback about the impact of recently introduced single-use items such as face masks, 2022 data included a number of new items and groupings such as e-waste.

This feedback reinforces volunteer engagement with Clean Up action and is a clear reminder that the desire to remove rubbish from their streets, beaches, parks, bushland and waterways remains as relevant today as it was over 33 years ago when volunteers first took action.

## MAJOR TYPES OF RUBBISH REPORTED



## FAVOURITE CLEAN UP SITES



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

GROUPED ITEMS	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10
	Non-Food Packaging	Soft Plastics	Beverage Containers	Food Packaging	Beverage Rubbish	Sanitary Items	Household Items	E-Waste	Sporting Equipment / Toys	Construction Material
	28.2%	25.0%	17.3%	12.7%	6.9%	4.4%	2.1%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%

While the Top 5 Grouped items remain consistent with 2021, we saw % increases in three categories: soft plastics [up 7%], beverage containers [up 4%], and food packaging [up 1%].

Sanitary items rose from 8th to 6th in ranking, reflecting a 1% increase in their counts. The introduction of face masks as a new item in 2022 contributed to this increase.

The good news is non-food packaging counts decreased by 5% as did beverage related rubbish.

The adjustment to household items reflects the separation of e-waste for the first time, where it took 8th place as a category.

Toys/sporting equipment counts rose by 1%, however this didn't affect their 9th place ranking.

Household items slipped one ranking with a 3% reduction of reported items and construction waste replaced clothing at number 10.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10
	Soft Plastics	Cigarette Butts	Single Use Plastic Bottles	Fast Food / Take Away Containers	Aluminium Beverage Cans	Glass Pieces	Plastic Packaging Pieces	Chips & Confect. Wrappers	Bottle Caps & Lids	Face Masks
	17.5%	13.6%	6.1%	6.0%	6.0%	5.1%	5.1%	3.7%	3.7%	3.2%

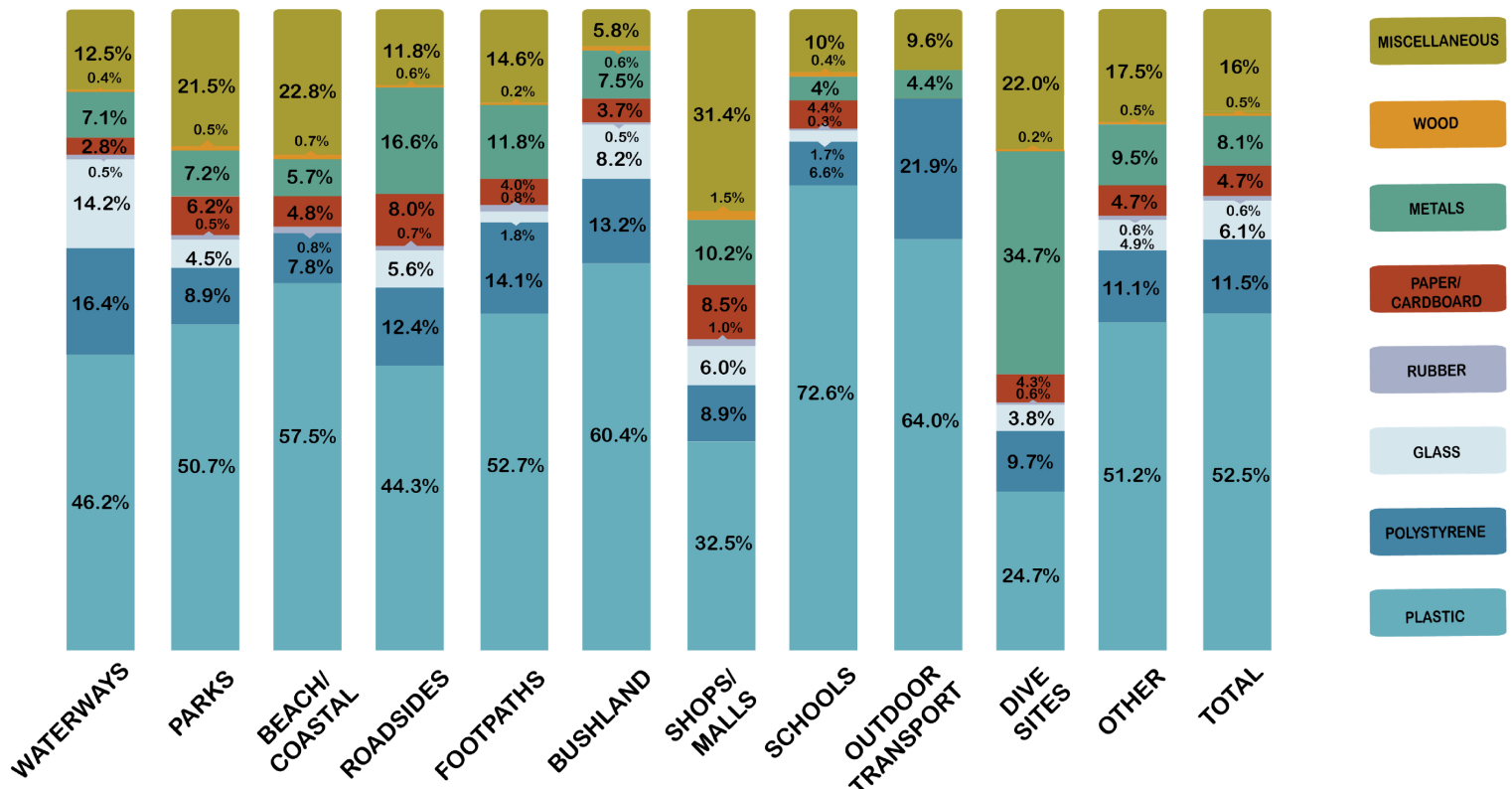
Top 10 individual items rankings changed significantly in 2022, with single-use plastic bottles [a quick count category introduced for the first time], fast food/takeaway, aluminium beverage cans, pieces of plastic packaging and face masks all making the list in 2022.

Within items that remain on the list from last year, we saw a 12% increase in soft plastics. Much of this can be attributed to the inclusion of a new quick count category of soft plastics.

While dropping one place on the list, cigarette butt counts as a percentage of all rubbish remained on-par with 2021.

Glass pieces reduced by 2%, as did chip and confectionery wrappers. Plastic bottle caps and lids fell by 1%.

## RUBBISH TYPE BY LOCATION



Founding Partner



Partners



sodastream

coles

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Media Partners

shopper

shopa docket

Suppliers

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LOOKIT

CLEANAWAY Daniels