

# QUEENSLAND RUBBISH REPORT 2022

Clean Up



The 2022 Rubbish Report is a snapshot of rubbish removed by Clean Up Australia volunteers. Across QLD, the Report is based on the count of 49,907 rubbish items from 139 surveyed locations (82,900 items from 249 locations in 2021).

## SITES REGISTERED

2,148  
(2,587 in 2021)

## ESTIMATED VOLUNTEERS

181,988  
(172,058 in 2021)

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

363,976  
(344,116 in 2021)

## NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2021

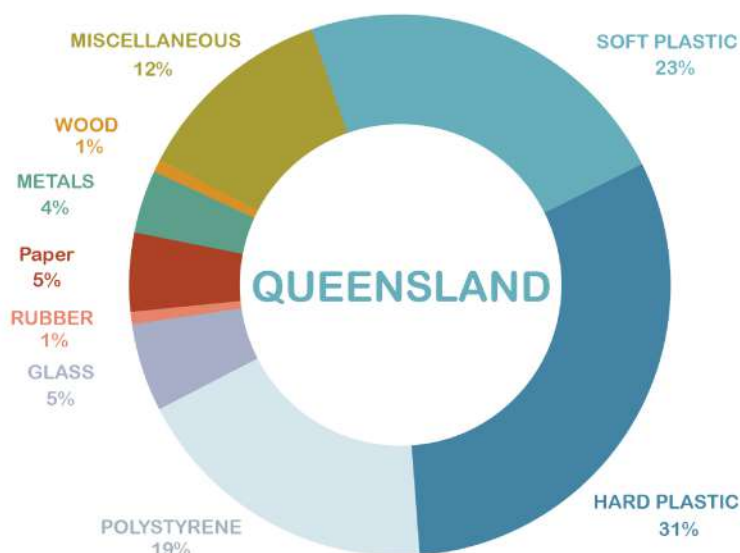
Polystyrene by 13%  
Soft plastics by 9%  
Hard plastics by 6%  
Misc. Items by 10%  
Metals by 8%  
Paper by 5%  
Glass by 3%  
Rubber by 2%

Wood remained on-par at 1%

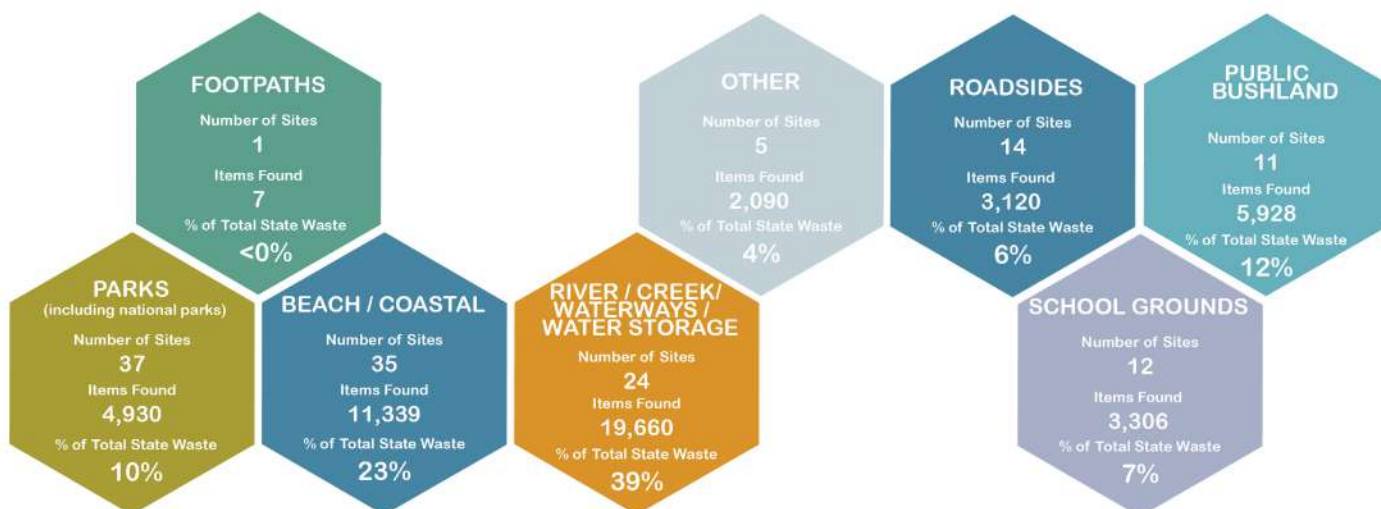
Reflecting volunteer feedback about the impact of recently introduced single-use items such as face masks, 2022 data included a number of new items and groupings such as e-waste.

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	Food Packaging	Beverage Rubbish	Beverage Containers	Household Items	Sanitary Items	Clothing	Construction Materials	Sporting Equipment / Toys
	26.2%	23.0%	20.7%	12.6%	9.8%	2.5%	2.2%	1.1%	0.8%	0.8%

While items within the Top 5 of Grouped items remain consistent with 2021, we saw % increases in three categories: food packaging [up 9.2%], soft plastics [up 8.9%], and beverage rubbish [up 2.3%]

Sanitary items rose from 9th to 7th in ranking, reflecting a 0.7% increase in their counts. This reflects the inclusion of face masks in that category.

While as a percentage of reported rubbish clothing reduced by 0.3%, it rose to 8th position from 10th last year.

The good news is non-food packaging counts decreased by a staggering 14% and beverage containers by 0.1%.

Construction materials and toys/sporting equipment each dropped two places reflective of 2.3% and 1.7% decreases in their presence.

INDIVIDUAL ITEMS	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#10
	Quick Count Soft Plastics	Fast Food / Take Away Containers	Cigarette Butts	Bottle Caps & Lids	Plastic Packaging Pieces	Glass Pieces	Single Use Plastic Bottles	Aluminium Beverage Cans	Straws	Chips & Confect. Wrappers
	19.1%	14.8%	10.0%	9.8%	8.9%	3.7%	3.4%	3.0%	2.3%	2.2%

Top 10 individual items counts moved a number of rankings in 2022, with fast food/takeaway and plastic packaging pieces entering the list.

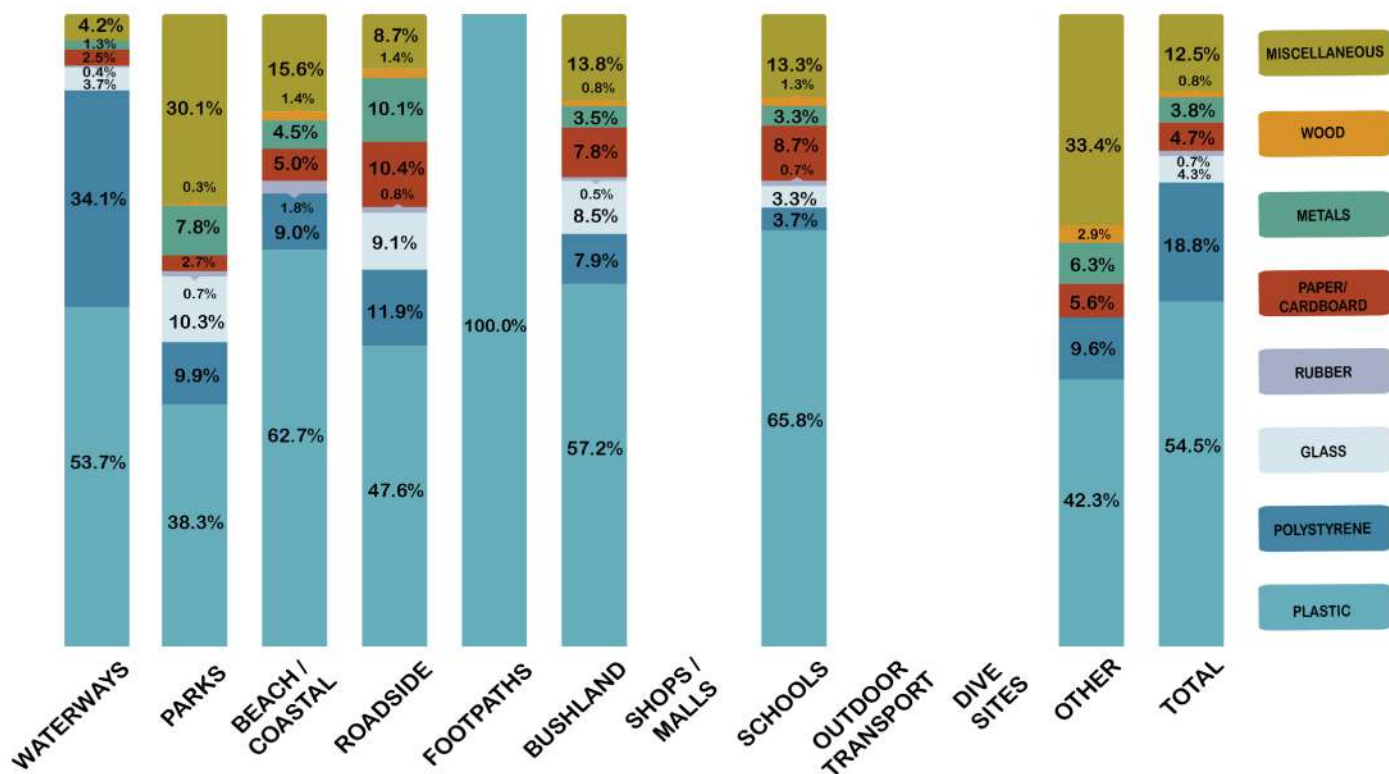
The good news is cigarette butts fell from the #1 ranking in 2021 to #3 this year, reflecting a 7.6% decrease in counts.

Across the Top 5, quick count soft plastics contributed to a 13.4% increase in this item count, plastic packaging pieces increased by 8.9%, and plastic bottle caps & lids by 5.4%.

Within the remaining list, aluminium beverage cans re-joined the Top 10 count and single use bottles were a new category item.

Plastic chip and confectionery wrappers fell from #4 to #10 with a 2.5% drop and straws reduced their presence by 1%. Miscellaneous plastics, foil confectionery wrappers, polystyrene pieces and small pieces of paper all fell off the Top 10 counts this year.

## RUBBISH TYPE BY LOCATION



Founding Partner



Partners



Media Partners



Suppliers

