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ACT LEADS THE WAY IN REDUCING LITTER

The Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index released today shows a substantial decline in the number of litter items across sites surveyed in the ACT. Items per 1,000 m² have dropped to 56 compared to last year's results and a national average of 68.

"The ACT results are favourable in comparison with the national averages for the number and volume of litter identified in the survey," said Mr Hargreaves.

"Whilst litter remains primarily a community attitude concern, the ACT Government has initiated or supported several programs aimed at raising public awareness to address the issue of littering.

"City Rangers have participated in a joint operation involving ACT Policing and Road User Services targeting uncovered loads, primarily debris falling from trailers en route to landfill and recycling centres.

"The ACT Government has participated in the Butt Free City Campaign since 2005. This campaign is both an awareness and compliance targeted activity. In the past 2 years, the campaign has exposed over 80,000 people to face to face education and over 25,000 pledges from smokers to bin their butts. Other programs include Landcare, Adopt-a-Wetland and Clean Up Australia Day.

"Importantly, the ACT Government has allocated funding of \$2 million on 2008/09 to improve maintenance and cleaning across Canberra, through increased services that include litter picking, sweeping of streets and car parks and steam cleaning of shopping centres.

"I encourage Canberrans to continue to dispose of their wastes responsibly, including recycling where ever possible", said Mr Hargreaves.

Statement Ends

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