



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Monday, 19 February 2007**

## **Tasmanians continue to be litterbugs**

Australians' littering habits have resulted in a seven per cent increase in volume of litter across the country in the latest results of the Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index launched today.

The results indicate that smokers remain the largest contributors to the number of litter items counted, with cigarette butts accounting for 47 per cent of the litter recorded in Tasmania.

Keep Australia Beautiful Tasmania Chairman Ken Stewart said only around 24 per cent of Tasmanians smoke, but by failing to dispose of their cigarette butts properly they are generating one of Tasmania's worst litter problems, seriously impacting on the environment and water quality.

"Australia wide this represents 400 million cigarette butts being used every week, with a significant number of these ending up as litter," Mr Stewart said.

"One of the disturbing statistics for Tasmania is that plastic litter increased in volume by seven per cent since the six months prior, accounting for 45 per cent of the volume of litter in Tasmania.

"Meanwhile highways topped the list for the most common sites for litter in Tasmania, accounting for 29 per cent, followed by car parks (17 per cent), and beaches and industrial sites (both 13 per cent).

"Litter, especially litter that is washed into our waterways, is a serious environmental problem and is something that could be easily fixed if everyone simply disposed of their packaging and litter responsibly," Mr Stewart said.

### **Key Tasmanian findings**

<b>Top ten litter items by number</b>	<b>Top ten litter items by volume</b>
Cigarettes	Illegal dumping
Plastic snack bags and confectionary wrappers	Plastic containers
Other paper (including tissues)	Plastic flavoured water/soft drink <1 litre
Plastic bottle tops	Cups/take away containers (paper)
All other plastic	Plastic flavoured water/soft drink 1 litre +
Metal bottle tops and can pull rings	Beer, aluminium, all types, all sizes
Tickets (e.g. bus, ATM, vending machine etc)	Alcoholic sodas & spirit-based mixers (metal)
Straws	Containers, industrial e.g. oil (plastic)
Lollipop sticks	White milk, all sizes (plastic)



Supermarket bags	Flavoured milk < 1 litre (plastic)
Ice cream sticks	Beer, < 750ml, all colours of glass
Junk mail/free circulars	Cigarette packets

#### **Worst Tasmanian litter sites**

- Highways (29%)
- Car parks (17%)
- Industrial areas (13%)
- Beaches (13%)
- Shopping centres (11%)
- Retail precincts (8%)
- Recreational parks (5%)
- Residential areas (6%)

To coincide with the release of the National Litter Index results, Keep Australia Beautiful is giving away 1,000 'Stubbi' personal ashtrays featuring the Keep Australia Beautiful logo in Tasmania.

**ENDS**

**For more information contact:**

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#### **Editor's notes:**

*The Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index is the only national, twice yearly, quantitative measure of litter in Australia and is based on a methodology that has been refined over 20 years. It details litter by type, by location and by brand and compares between representatives' sites in each state rather than the full area or population of the state. The Neighborhood Litter Count – a version for members of the public to measure litter in their own neighborhood can be found at [www.kab.org.au](http://www.kab.org.au)*