

Press Release, 25.5.06

**STATE HELP NEEDED TO
KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL**



A second round of litter counts across Australia has just been completed. The results, when combined with the litter counts undertaken last November, will form the basis of the National Litter Index for 2005/2006 which will be available in June. Commissioned by the Australian Minister for Environment and Heritage, Hon Ian Campbell MP, and conducted by Keep Australia Beautiful, the National Litter Index is the only national measure of where litter occurs and what items make up the litter stream.

'Great progress has been made but more needs to be done' said Keep Australia Beautiful National Chairman, Don Chambers.

'We welcome the Australian Government funds that allowed the National Litter Index to be reinstated this year. This research provides the essential quantitative information specified by the National Packaging Covenant that will help national manufacturers address issues such as packaging design, litter reduction and resource recovery.

Industry has also participated. The Beverage Industry Environment Council, now known as the Packaging Stewardship Forum, has for many years funded litter research. Their member companies Coca-Cola Amatil and Cadbury Schweppes have also made direct contributions to past and present counts.

The South Australian Government has funded the count there for many years. The Victorian Government has just completed research on litter during the Commonwealth Games but is not yet committed to funding the National Litter Index.

We now call on all State and Territory governments to support this essential litter count which requires industry, State and Australian Government support to continue.

We are also committed to working with all stakeholders to achieve the second measure that is specified by the National Packaging Covenant and that is a measure of people's behaviour in relation to litter.'

Details of the Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index: www.kab.org.au. The National Packaging Covenant 2005-2010 can be found at <http://www.deh.gov.au/settlements/waste/covenant/>. On page 21 it lists key performance indicators including number 17: 'Amount and type of consumer packaging in the litter stream' with State & Territory governments responsible for specific data collection and reporting.

Contact: Don Chambers, National Chair, KAB, 0408 654 209
Scott Lyall, National Executive, KAB, 0419 016 401
Lara Shannon, National Publicist, KAB, 0415 076 015