

'These figures are very disappointing. Clean-up costs associated with litter significantly impact on Council budgets, affecting the level of service Councils can provide. Councils control huge areas of roadsides, car parks and recreational facilities and are the primary level of government responsible for litter removal. National action associated with reducing the use of plastic bags has resulted in lower levels of littering. Surely it is now time to act nationally to reduce all littering levels, particularly cigarette butts.'

Paul Bell
President
Australian Local Government Association

"The National Litter Index highlights the urgency to improve smoker education on the environmental impact of butt litter and the need to factor litter control into the introduction of outdoor smoking bans," said the Chair of the national Butt Littering Trust Ian Coles.

"The Index shows a growing problem and highlights the need for an ongoing effort to stop butt littering. We certainly support the Federal and State Government's recent agreement on creating a national action plan to combat the issue."

"Through our Butt Free Solutions programs we have been effective in reducing butt litter in selected areas and welcome the opportunity to work with the various levels of government to solve the problem," he said.

Ian Coles
Chair
Butt Littering Trust.

Keep Australia Beautiful's National Litter Index gives us a valuable snapshot of what litter is found where. Each time the Index is run, it helps us plan how to change people's behaviour to cut litter, and know how much our programs on cutting litter have worked. Whether its on our beaches, in our parks, at work - or in our carparks and highways, which together are loaded with 62% of the litter items. We'll be working with KAB and our partners across government and industry to change people's behaviour at the litter hotspots, increase recycling, and cut the amount of litter for good.

Alec Wagstaff
President, Packaging Stewardship Forum
Australian Food & Grocery Council

"This report demonstrates that we must continue in our endeavours to educate the community not to litter. The confectionery industry has always been committed to working with government to reduce the incidence of litter where this is within its capacity. The National Litter Index underlines the need for continuing government and community education initiatives in all states."

David Greenwood
CEO
Confectionery Manufacturers of Australia

"The KAB National Litter Index has been designed to deliver a consistent and independent measure of littering across Australia, enabling relevant annual comparisons. The National Packaging Covenant has two key performance indicators relating specifically to litter and the KAB Index can provide appropriate data to enable reporting against them. With consistent use over time, the KAB Index should also be able to identify trends in the seasonality and composition of litter and possibly littering behaviour."

Edward Cordner
Executive Officer
National Packaging Covenant Council

"The litter we drop says something about our society. We're prosperous and enjoy a high standard of living compared with many other countries. But we can't become so comfortable that we become complacent. Littering is a bad habit and one that is easy to stop."

"The Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index is such an important tool. It holds a mirror up to our society and our attitudes to waste. Personally, I don't like what I see. As a relatively environmentally aware and educated society, we have no excuse for the reported increases in littering."

"Litter items like lolly pop sticks and empty spring water bottles are on the rise. These are 'lifestyle' items. My generation needs to remember that we can have fun and live a good life, and still do the right thing by the environment."

Tanya Ha, Sustainable Living Campaigner and author of
Greeniology - How to live well, be green and make a difference