



MEDIA RELEASE
6 August 2009

Annual Litter Count down but still more work to do

The annual National Litter Index results have been released today and according to Keep Australia Beautiful Executive Officer, Scott Lyall, "Litter is just not acceptable. It is a blight on our local environment and encourages other problems such as graffiti and vandalism.

"The research shows a slight reduction in the national average, yet highlights some trouble spots."

The National Litter Index is Australia's only national, annual, quantitative measure of litter, providing reliable base line data on litter across Australia, assisting governments, businesses and community organisations in the development of policies and programs that will reduce litter across Australian communities.

The findings of the 2009 report show that Victoria performed best overall, whilst Queensland showed the highest reduction in litter items in comparison to last year. The report shows that industrial areas, retail sites and highways are the major areas affected by litter.

- **NT** showed a disappointing increase in litter at retail sites, car parks and beaches being the trouble locations. Of concern was a spike in the proportion of plastic litter items reported.
- **WA** was slightly up on items with retail sites, car parks and shopping centres being the highest areas to increase. Encouragingly, there was a substantial decline in litter found at industrial sites.
- **SA** has recorded a steady decrease in litter items.
- **TAS** showed a disappointing increase in litter items, primarily within industrial areas. An increase was also recorded in plastic food containers and utensils.
- **VIC** showed significant decrease in litter, indicating the 'Dob in a Litterer' campaign may be influencing behaviour in this state. Significant reduction in industrial site litter was also recorded.
- **ACT** showed an overall downward trend, with the exception of retail sites, which have increased. Unfortunately the number of plastic items has increased from last year.
- **NSW** showed an overall decrease in litter items, with a slight increase in paper / cardboard litter and alcoholic glass bottles.
- **QLD** was significantly down in items, showing a high reduction in litter overall.

Cigarette butts, although down from last year, are still the most pervasive litter item, recording an average 30 butts per 1000m². Plastic litter, such as plastic food containers and plastic utensils, follow close behind. Illegal dumping, slightly down from last year, continued to contribute the most to litter volume nationally.

"We call on all Australians to do the right thing and put litter in the bin. We ask everyone to also take part in Keep Australia Beautiful Week which kicks off on Monday 24 August. The theme 'Waste Lives On' is a reminder to reduce litter and increase recycling – something we can all do", Scott Lyall added.

To download the National or State reports visit www.kab.org.au and click on the litter research section.

Media Contacts:

Scott Lyall, Executive Officer, 0419 016 401 scottl@kab.org.au
Max Spedding, Program Manager, on 0400 880 677 or spedding@bigpond.net.au
Lara Shannon, National PR Manager, KAB on 0415 076 015 or laras@kab.org.au