



Simon Corbell MLA

ATTORNEY GENERAL
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ENERGY
MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

MEDIA RELEASE

ACT CLEANS UP IN NATIONAL LITTER INDEX

The ACT has the lowest volume of litter per square metre of any state or territory according to a new national report, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, Simon Corbell, said today.

The annual National Litter Index showed that in 2009-10 the ACT recorded 3.31 litres of litter per 1,000m². This was down from 4.77 litres in 2008-09, less than half the national average of 7.55 litres and ahead of second-placed Victoria with 4.91 litres.

The ACT also performed well for the number of items of litter recorded per 1,000m². The figure of 51 items was lower than in 2008-09 when the figure was 56 and second only to Victoria on 50.

“The continued downward trend in the amount of litter is good news and underlines the determination of the ACT Government and our community to tackle this issue,” Mr Corbell said.

“Since the ACT first participated in the Index in 2006-07, the number of items of litter has fallen by 25% and the volume of litter has more than halved in that time.”

The Index, published by Keep Australia Beautiful, showed that the items which contributed the greatest volumes to the ACT’s litter stream were paper/paperboard objects (1.59 litres/1,000m²) followed by plastic (0.84 litres/1,000m²).

“I am pleased to note that the report also show very low levels of litter at recreational parks, car park sites and in residential areas in the ACT,” Mr Corbell said.

“There was also a notable decrease in illegally dumped rubbish, down from 0.83 litres per 1,000m² in 2008-2009 to 0.1 litres in 2009-2010.

“There were some areas that experienced some problems with litter including industrial areas, highways and some retail and shopping centres. But even in these areas, the report showed a fall in the volumes of litter.

“Canberrans are successfully reducing the problem of litter and I congratulate them for that,” Mr Corbell said. “But this report also shows us that we cannot become complacent about this issue if we want our city to remain the country’s cleanest.”

Statement Ends: Thursday September 23, 2010.

Media Contact: Patrick Cronan (Office) 6205 0401 (Mobile) 0432 758 224
patrick.cronan@act.gov.au