



The National Litter Index (NLI) is Australia's only national annual quantitative measure of what litter occurs where and in what volume, based on counts taken twice a year at 983 sites across Australia.

The average number of items across all sites surveyed in the 2010/11 National Litter Index was 61 per 1,000m², while the average estimated volume was 6.49 litres per 1,000m². These figures represent a decrease in the number of items and volume on the previous year (66 items and 7.55 litres per 1000m²).

The reduction in some litter items may be attributed to the exceptionally wet conditions experienced in many areas of Australia early in 2011. This will have simply washed away the lighter litter items from the streets, into nearby storm water drains and waterways away from the survey sites.

Cigarette butts were the most frequently identified litter item, whilst plastic litter objects contributed the largest amount of volume to the litter stream. The largest number of items were located within retail sites, industrial sites and shopping centres, while the largest volumes of litter objects were found at industrial and highway sites.

NATIONAL RESULTS TABLE YEAR ON YEAR

Table 1

| | Items per 1,000m ² | | | | | | Volume (litres) per 1,000m ² | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 05/06 | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 | 05/06 | 06/07 | 07/08 | 08/09 | 09/10 | 10/11 |
| NATIONAL | 70 | 74 | 68 | 63 | 66 | 61 | 8.86 | 9.68 | 8.59 | 7.73 | 7.55 | 6.49 |
| ACT | - | 68 | 56 | 56 | 51 | 45 | - | 7.04 | 6.06 | 4.77 | 3.31 | 3.73 |
| NSW | 80 | 71 | 77 | 65 | 75 | 69 | 14.95 | 14.69 | 11.90 | 12.13 | 13.43 | 10.72 |
| NT | - | 64 | 60 | 84 | 70 | 34 | - | 5.32 | 7.24 | 6.00 | 5.09 | 3.16 |
| QLD | 89 | 86 | 76 | 59 | 76 | 78 | 7.66 | 7.59 | 7.44 | 5.60 | 5.65 | 5.94 |
| SA | 60 | 61 | 68 | 57 | 54 | 55 | 7.23 | 11.08 | 9.55 | 8.02 | 7.13 | 5.36 |
| TAS | 59 | 70 | 61 | 64 | 86 | 85 | 5.15 | 6.68 | 5.90 | 9.20 | 9.04 | 8.23 |
| VIC | 71 | 80 | 48 | 43 | 50 | 39 | 7.87 | 7.74 | 4.19 | 2.87 | 4.91 | 3.99 |
| WA | 60 | 83 | 85 | 87 | 71 | 75 | 8.57 | 12.19 | 13.06 | 11.93 | 9.44 | 9.03 |

THE FILTHY FIVE - NATIONAL

Table 2a

By item (per 1,000m2)

| MATERIAL | ITEMS PER m2 |
|------------------|--------------|
| Cigarette butts | 29 |
| Plastic | 12 |
| Paper/paperboard | 11 |
| Metal | 5 |
| Glass | 2 |

Table 2b

By volume (1,000m2)

| MATERIAL | VOLUME |
|------------------|--------|
| Plastic | 1.95 |
| Paper/paperboard | 1.74 |
| Metal | 0.88 |
| Glass | 0.50 |
| Cigarette butts | 0.003 |

STATE/TERRITORY RESULTS COMPARED TO NATIONAL AVERAGE

Table 3a

By item (per 1,000m2)

| MATERIAL | NAT | NSW | ACT | VIC | QLD | WA | SA | NT | TAS |
|------------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|
| Cigarette butts | 29 | 33 | 23 | 18 | 41 | 32 | 23 | 15 | 53 |
| Plastic | 12 | 11 | 8 | 7 | 16 | 14 | 12 | 8 | 15 |
| Paper/paperboard | 11 | 15 | 9 | 8 | 12 | 16 | 12 | 4 | 9 |
| Metal | 5 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 4 |
| Glass | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Table 3b

By volume (1,000m2)

| MATERIAL | NAT | NSW | ACT | VIC | QLD | WA | SA | NT | TAS |
|------------------|--------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Plastic | 1.95 | 2.66 | 1.15 | 1.05 | 2.38 | 3.10 | 1.31 | 1.14 | 2.34 |
| Paper/paperboard | 1.74 | 2.38 | 1.49 | 1.15 | 1.78 | 2.52 | 1.10 | 0.65 | 2.89 |
| Metal | 0.88 | 1.03 | 0.66 | 0.70 | 0.89 | 1.64 | 0.32 | 0.50 | 1.23 |
| Glass | 0.50 | 0.72 | 0.17 | 0.53 | 0.31 | 1.03 | 0.25 | 0.27 | 0.41 |
| Cigarette butts | 0.003 | 0.004 | 0.003 | 0.002 | 0.005 | 0.004 | 0.003 | 0.002 | 0.006 |

MEDIA CONTACT:

Lara Shannon, KABNA national publicist, 0415 076 015 or laras@kab.org.au