

# Frank Sartor MP

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment  
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)



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## Latest litter figures released

Cigarette butts continue to be the most littered item in NSW, according to the Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) National Litter Index, released today.

NSW Climate Change and Environment Minister Frank Sartor said the findings show that cigarette butts account for 46 per cent of items littered, while plastic makes up the biggest volume.

Mr Sartor said that although the report shows an increase in littering figures in NSW, on a per capita basis, NSW is still performing well above the national average.

“While the figures are still much better today than they were five years ago, we cannot be complacent,” Mr Sartor said.

“Litter is a blight on the environment. It’s an eyesore. It ends up in our waterways and it impacts on marine and native wildlife.

“Cigarette butts continue to be the number one item littered in NSW, with paper and plastics following behind.”

The NSW Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) National Litter index report shows:

- The average volume of litter and illegal dumping in NSW increased by 11% at surveyed sites, compared to the previous year
- The average number of items per site increased by 15% in 2009/10
- Plastic contributed the largest amount of litter volume amounting to 3.00 litres per 1000m<sup>2</sup>, up from 2.67 litres in 2008/09
- Increases in litter items were most strongly evident at shopping centres, beaches, retail sites and industrial sites. Industrial sites and retail sites had the highest average litter counts
- Compared to other states and territories, most site types in NSW are cleaner than the national average
- The number of items and the volume of litter are 6% and 10% respectively lower than 2005/06, which was the worst recorded year for NSW since the index began

Mr Sartor said taking into account population density, NSW has 1.05 items per 1,000m<sup>2</sup> per 100,000 people, compared to the national average of 2.43. The average volume of litter per 100,000 people in NSW is 0.19 litres, compared to the national average of 0.27 litres.

“The NSW Government will continue to work closely with local government and other organisations working to reduce litter, such as Keep Australia Beautiful,” Mr Sartor said.

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“NSW has a strong record in litter prevention and education and these results show that some people still haven’t got the message and we need to keep up the pressure to keep litter levels down.”

Mr Sartor said the NSW Government works with local councils to support its litter compliance and enforcement activities, including providing funding for litter education and prevention programs, infrastructure for public place recycling and to tackle illegal dumping.

Dawn Fardell MP, Chair of Keep Australia Beautiful NSW, said despite the organisation’s best targeted efforts to reduce litter, the results showed more needed to be done to crack down on NSW litterbugs.

“Keep Australia Beautiful is keen to continue to work with the NSW Government to develop new strategies to tackle this serious problem.

“NSW has long been a leader in litter prevention, education and compliance and we urge the NSW Government to ramp up its program of funding, education, enforcement and compliance to reverse this worrying trend.”

The full report is available at [www.kab.org.au](http://www.kab.org.au)

## **Media Contacts**

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