



Media Release
Strictly embargoed until: 6th August 2009

NATIONAL LITTER INDEX: TERRITORIANS SCORE A BAD REPORT CARD

The Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index, released today, is a bad report card for Territorians, recording a disappointing increase in litter across the Northern Territory.

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 Australia's communities.

While it shows there is an overall downward trend in littering Nationally, some of the state-specific results demonstrate that there is still more that can be done to further reduce littering across the nation.

Base line data findings for Territorians across the 76 sites surveyed showed strong evidence of increase in litter within retail sites, car parks and beaches - the three main offending areas. Territory retail sites were associated with the highest number of litter items found during the survey and Territory beaches were the highest contributor to volume of litter in NT during survey.

The survey findings showed a significant increase in littering, in comparison with Territory findings in previous years.

Cigarette butts are still the most pervasive litter item, and were the most frequently identified item across the Territory. 'Uncategorised' plastic litter items also contributed the highest amount of litter volume.

On a positive note, the Territory's highways and recreational parks findings were associated with both a low number of items and a low level of total volume.

CEO for Keep Australia Beautiful Council NT, Heimo Schober, commented:

"We need all Territorians to be aware and vigilant to the possible causes of litter in our Territory. If there are no bins around then do the right thing and hold on to the rubbish until you find a bin. If you see rubbish on the ground pick it up and place it in a bin, if you are a waste service provider and notice public place rubbish bins are overflowing or missing lids, communicate the need to increase service frequency and have lids replaced urgently. All these actions help to reduce ground litter and we all need to get involved and do our bit, please do the right thing and bin all rubbish."

"In the lead up to the annual Keep Australia Beautiful Week program, we call on all Territorians to double their efforts against litter." he added.

To download the National or State reports visit www.kab.org.au

Keep Australia Beautiful Week follows the release of the NLI, kicking off on Monday 24 August 2009. The theme 'Waste Lives On' focuses on how Australians can reduce their waste at home, work, school and when out and about. All Australians can get involved by visiting www.kab.org.au

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Editor's Notes:

State by State Overview

- **NSW** showed an overall decrease in litter items, with a slight increase in paper / cardboard litter and alcoholic glass bottles.
- **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 Retails sites, which has increased. Unfortunately the number of plastic items has increased from last year
- **QLD** was significantly down in items, showing a high reduction in litter overall
- **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
- **WA** was slightly up on items with retails sites, car parks and shopping centres being the highest areas to increase. Encouragingly there has been a substantial decline in litter found at industrial sites
- **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.

The National Dirty Dozen – top twelve litter items by type

Litter Type:	Number per 1000m²
CIGARETTE BUTTS	30
PAPER / PAPER BOARD	9
PLASTIC	6
PLASTIC – Food Containers & Utensils	5
METAL	3
MISCELLANEOUS	1
PAPER /PAPERBOARD - Food container or utensil	1
PLASTIC - Non-alcoholic beverage container	1
GLASS – Other	1
PAPER /PAPERBOARD - Cigarette packets	1
METAL - Alcoholic beverage container	1
GLASS - Alcoholic beverage container	1