



**Media Release**  
**Strictly embargoed until: 23rd September 2010**

**NATIONAL LITTER INDEX: TERRITORIANS IMPROVE ON LAST YEAR'S RESULTS**

The Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index, released today, indicates an overall improvement by Territorians on last year's results, recording a welcomed decrease in litter found across the Northern Territory both in volume and item numbers.

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 upward trend in littering Nationally by items and slightly downward trend by volume, Northern Territory's trend results demonstrate a positive downward trend within both areas of litter items and the volume of litter found over the last twelve months.

Base line data findings for Territorians, across the 76 Northern Territory sites surveyed, showed retail sites were disappointingly associated with the highest number of litter items and also contributed a substantial volume of litter to the estimated total volume found during the survey. Other sites that also contributed large volumes of litter to the litter stream in Northern Territory included beaches, residential areas and car park sites.

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.

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

"The survey findings showed a decrease in littering, in comparison with Territory findings in the previous year and we need to keep the trend going in the right direction. We need all Territorians to be aware and vigilant to the possible causes of litter in our Territory. Cigarette smokers, please ensure finished cigarette butts are placed into bins and not on the ground. With general rubbish, 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 resulting in windblown litter, communicate the need to increase service frequency and have lids replaced urgently. All these combined actions will help to reduce ground litter. We all need to get involved and to do our bit, please do the right thing and bin all rubbish."

"I call on all Territorians to consciously review their waste disposal practices and change them if necessary. When at the shops, beaches, parks or even when in the car, hold on to the rubbish until you find a bin, and then bin it. Let's Keep Australia Beautiful, let's all work together Territorians and double our efforts against litter, I know that we can do it." he added.

To download the National or State reports visit [www.kab.org.au](http://www.kab.org.au)

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**Editor's Notes:**

Cigarette butts were the most frequently identified litter item followed by uncategorised plastic objects and plastic food containers and utensils.

Uncategorised plastic objects were the largest single contributor to volume in the litter stream followed by paper, paperboard, food containers and utensils and illegal dumping.

**The Northern Territory Dirty Dozen – top twelve litter items by type**

<b>Litter Type:</b>	<b>Number per 1000m<sup>2</sup></b>
CIGARETTE BUTTS	38
PLASTIC – Other (Uncategorised)	7
PLASTIC - Food Containers & Utensils	6
PAPER / PAPERBOARD – Other (Uncategorised)	5
METAL – Other (Uncategorised)	5
MISCELLANEOUS	2
GLASS – Other (Uncategorised)	2
PAPER /PAPERBOARD - Food container or utensils	1
GLASS - Alcoholic beverage container	1
METAL - Alcoholic beverage container	1
PLASTIC - Non-alcoholic beverage container	1
PAPER /PAPERBOARD - Publications	1