

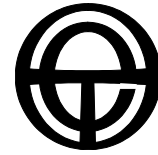
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23 September 2010

NATIONAL LITTER INDEX REVEALS MORE TO DO

Undoubtedly litter in particular the bigger items like beverage containers disturbs the community - they see it as ugly vandalism of our environment, streets and parks – and the National Litter Index is one way to get a picture of the problem, Total Environment Centre said today.

“The results appear to show that some things have got worse like park and highway litter in Victoria; that plastic litter is a ubiquitous problem generally in Australia; and some results are erratic year to year,” said Jeff Angel, Executive Director of the Centre.

“It could be time for a wide ranging review of the methodology for litter counts and littering behaviour if we are to develop new policies as called for by environment ministers recently. For example, the NLI is a ‘litter count’ but the sites chosen could have had a council cleanup a week or so prior to the count. More information is needed on cleanups at each site so the real level of littering is obtained.”

“We understand the NLI is not about litter behaviour but in order to develop better programs the impact of new policies like container deposits and the introduction of a financial incentive should be addressed. We would expect the regulatory impact statement announced by environment ministers in early July to address this issue.”

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