



# Government Media Statement

Monday 22 August 2011

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**BRIAN WIGHTMAN MP**  
**Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage**

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**Tasmania taking action on illegal litter dumping**

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The Minister for Environment, Parks and Heritage, Brian Wightman, today said the results from the most recent Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index highlight a marked reduction in litter from illegal dumping in Tasmania.

The National Litter Index tells what litter is where and in what volume so that each state and territory can compare its results with the national average. The latest index surveyed litter at 983 sites across Australia, including 76 sites in Tasmania.

Illegal dumping contributed 1.08 litres per 1,000m<sup>2</sup> to the state's litter stream - down from 2.17 litres in 2009-10 and less than the national average.

'This reduction follows the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA) successful prosecution of a number of illegal dumping incidents over the past few years in Tasmania.

"The EPA is responsible for implementing and enforcing the Litter Act and has recently handed out a number of infringement notices to individuals for the illegal dumping of litter.

"The fines act as a reminder that it is illegal to dump rubbish on roadsides and in bushland and the latest results show this message appears to be getting through"

The National Litter Index found cigarette butts were the most frequently identified item littered across all sites in Tasmania in 2010-11, while paper and paperboard such as takeaway food containers or utensils contributed the largest amounts of volume to the state's litter stream.

Mr Wightman said the Tasmanian litter rate for paper and paperboard food containers is typically two to three times higher than the national average.

"I'm calling upon our takeaway food retailers to see what they can do to help us turn that around," Mr Wightman said.

Mr Wightman said he noted the rise in public reports of litter offences to the litter hotline over the past few months in Tasmania.

"Stamping out littering is everyone's responsibility and it is heartening to see Tasmanians taking action to report litterers," Mr Wightman said.

Mr Wightman also acknowledged the work of local government, the Derwent Estuary Program, the Southern Waste Strategy Authority, Tasmania Police, the Transport Department of DIER and various community groups for their tireless efforts to tackle the problem of littering.

"The EPA has a strong partnership with the Education Department through the Australian Sustainable Schools Initiative and it is encouraging to hear the EPA Division's plans to continue that engagement, with a focus on litter prevention," said Mr Wightman.

"Our children are getting involved in addressing the litter problem so it is important to ensure that we set the sort of example they would hope to see from their parents."

Mr Wightman said he hoped Tasmanians could build on the improved results, and encouraged anyone who witnessed littering to call the litter hotline on 1300 135 513.

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