



## Simon Corbell MLA

ATTORNEY GENERAL  
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND WATER  
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES  
MINISTER FOR ENERGY  
MEMBER FOR MOLONGLO

# MEDIA RELEASE

## ACT RATES SECOND BEST IN AUSTRALIA FOR LITTER

In further evidence that Canberra is a national leader in reducing waste levels, a new report has revealed the ACT has the second lowest rates of litter in Australia, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water, Simon Corbell, said today.

The *2008-09 National Litter Index* reveals the number of litter items in the ACT has decreased from 68 items to 56 per 1000m<sup>2</sup>, or a drop of 20 per cent since 2006-07, which is second only to Victoria.

"I am very encouraged to see the downward trend in regard to litter in the ACT, but there is still more work to be done," Mr Corbell said.

"The report does show that the highest litter areas are industrial zones, retail zones and highways.

"Reducing litter is a very simple way that all members of the community can reduce their impact on the environment by stowing rubbish and placing it in a bin."

The report found that plastic objects like food containers and utensils are a major contributor to litter in the ACT.

"The ACT is an affluent society, and with affluence comes greater levels of consumption," Mr Corbell said.

"It is each person's responsibility to ensure they properly dispose of their plastic containers, and not dump them in a way that will pose a threat to the environment," he said.

Some of the other findings of the report include:

- Littering from paper and paperboard publications such as junk mail has decreased significantly from 0.49 litres to 0.17 litres per 1000m<sup>2</sup>;
- Illegal dumping of objects improved to less than half of what it was last year;

"Cigarette butts remain the litter item of most concern. The butts are small, and can easily find their way into the stormwater stream. They are also very slow to decompose and as we know can start bushfires," Mr Corbell said.

"It is pleasing to note that levels of litter in our recreational parks have stayed very low as have they in residential areas around the Territory.

"The Government has committed \$483,000 over the next two years to consult with key stakeholders on the development of a future waste strategy for the ACT which would target businesses, electronic and organic waste which are major contributors to landfill."

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### ACT Government

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“The Government is also exploring different ways to reduce the consumption of plastic bags in the Territory through a comprehensive consultation process.

“This report, while it is encouraging, is a stark reminder that we cannot become complacent about litter, and Canberrans need to work together to reduce the amount of waste in the community.”

Statement Ends:

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