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Latest litter figures released

NSW figures from the annual Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index have been released.

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment Carmel Tebbutt said the report showed that while fewer pieces of litter were found on NSW streets and beaches than in previous years, cigarette butts were still one of the most commonly found items.

Although the report shows a rise in litter volume in 08/09 compared to 07/08, litter volume was lower than in each of the previous two years.

Plastic products, including food containers and utensils, and paper/paperboard contributed the largest amount of litter volume.

“The Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index is the only national quantitative measure of litter,” Ms Tebbutt said.

“NSW has helped fund the report to give us and local councils a picture of what is being dropped and where.”

The report shows:

- The number of individual pieces of litter items has decreased by 15%
- Litter volume in NSW rose by 2% from last year but is down nearly 17% compared to 06/07
- The volume of illegally dumped objects was higher this year than last year, but was down substantially compared to 06/07
- Cigarette butts account for nearly one in every two items of litter
- The most littered sites generally are industrial areas, car parks and along highways.

Ms Tebbutt said the report showed that NSW still had work to do in reducing its overall litter volume, and that all levels of government as well as the community needed to continue working together to reduce the problem.

“This year the NSW Government has provided \$305,000 in grant funding to extend 17 litter prevention campaigns into 2009/10.

“These will build on the successful *Don't be a Tosser* and *Litter it's in your hands* campaigns, run by local councils.

“These campaigns combine education with enforcement activities to support the message that littering is not acceptable, especially cigarette butts.

“The NSW Government has also worked with local councils to set up Regional Illegal Dumping (RID) Squads, in Western Sydney and the Illawarra. During this last year the RID squads have investigated 23,412 incidents involving the clean up of 9,353 tonnes of waste, issuing 50 clean up notices and 474 penalty notices.”



Carmel Tebbutt MP

Deputy Premier

Minister for Climate Change and the Environment | Minister for Commerce



Ms Tebbutt said that DECCW also had an online reporting system that enabled members of the public to report litterers through their website: <http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/esdlitteringapp/default.aspx>

“It is important that we all do our part and help reduce littering in the community to preserve our environment for future generations,” Ms Tebbutt said.

Keep Australia Beautiful NSW Chief Executive Officer Peter McLean said that although the litter statistics had encouraging results, additional work needs to be done.

“To combat litter in NSW, we plan to work with government to reduce litter and illegal dumping by putting in place measures that empower the NSW community and ensure that litterers know they’re being watched,” Mr McLean said.

The full report is available at www.kab.org.au

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