



Mark Speakman
Minister for the Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

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THE GLOVES ARE ON FOR CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Environment Minister Mark Speakman today congratulated the hundreds of thousands of NSW volunteers taking part in this year's Clean Up Australia Day.

Mr Speakman, who joined Clean Up Australia Founder and Chairman Ian Kiernan AO at the clean up of Sydney's Blackwattle Bay Park and Rozelle Bay, said Clean Up Australia Day was an important initiative because it encouraged everybody to do their bit to help keep our parks, beaches and communities litter-free.

"The progress results for this year's clean up show about 240,000 NSW volunteers across almost 2,800 NSW sites removed an estimated 6,000 tonnes of rubbish," Mr Speakman said.

Reducing the volume of litter by 40 per cent by 2020 is one of 12 Premier's Priorities for this term of government, because the community consistently identified littering as an area of environmental concern.

"We have committed to implementing a container deposit scheme by 1 July 2017 to help reduce beverage container litter, which was estimated to be 160 million pieces in NSW last year alone," Mr Speakman said.

The NSW government also has committed \$78 million to tackle litter and illegally dumped materials over five years as part of the government's \$465.7 *Waste Less Recycle More* initiative. Since 2013, \$8.2 million was awarded in illegal dumping grants and funding, and \$3.3 million was awarded to support more than 100 littering projects.

Mr Kiernan said Clean Up Australia Day was the biggest community event in the country.

"So long as we are prepared to get involved and get our hands dirty, clean up events such as those of this last week will continue to make a difference," Mr Kiernan said.

"For me every day is Clean Up Australia Day. And while it's great to focus community attention on a national event, we all need to take more responsibility for the rubbish we create every day of the year."

