



Mark Speakman
Minister for the Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

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LITTER VOLUME DROPS AS NSW TACKLES THE TOSSERS

NSW is almost halfway to meeting the Premier's Priority target to reduce litter volume by 40 per cent by 2020, Environment Minister Mark Speakman announced today.

NSW litter volume dropped by 12 per cent in the past 12 months, according to this year's Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index results – which means there has been a 19 per cent reduction in NSW's litter volume from 2013-14 to 2015-16.

“The reduction in litter is expected to really pick up pace from July next year once the NSW Government's container deposit scheme is introduced,” Mr Speakman said.

“This year's results show the message is getting through that we need to prevent litter from ending up in our waterways, beaches and communities, but there is still more to do.”

NSW Government campaigns such as *Hey Tosser!*, collaborative litter reduction programs with councils, businesses and community partnerships and public education initiatives have combined to help reduce and prevent litter.

This year's survey found drink containers made up 49 per cent of total NSW litter volume, take away containers made up 24 per cent of total NSW litter volume and print and advertising material made up eight per cent of NSW litter volume.

Cigarette butts continued to be the most littered item representing about 33 per cent of all items.

The NSW Government's litter reduction programs are funded through the *Waste Less Recycle More* initiative's \$20 million litter prevention program.

The Keep Australia Beautiful index is a national litter survey. The NSW results are based on a survey of 151 sites with litter measured across five categories, namely glass, metal, plastic, paper and cardboard and cigarette butts. The survey has been conducted annually since 2005-06.

Read the results at the NSW Environment Protection Authority website:

www.environment.nsw.gov.au/resources/litter/nsw-national-litter-index-results-160513.pdf