



Victoria's Litter Report Card 2016

About

Victoria's Litter Report Card is an evidence based document to inform Victorian Government investment in litter prevention and management activities in Victoria.

Its development involved a review of current litter activity and actions across all sectors of Victoria. This included reviewing all available programs, reports and data, and undertaking stakeholder interviews to capture the extent of activities across the state.

This qualitative and quantitative data was analysed, using a multi-criteria analysis, to determine the extent and impact of the range of issues that organisations are currently managing. This data was used to identify Victoria's top five litter issues.

The key stages of this project's development were:

- 1 Evidence gathering and profiling
- 2 Data collation and analysis
- 3 Victoria's top five litter issues.

Background

The 30 year **Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan** (state infrastructure plan), led by **Sustainability Victoria** on behalf of the Victorian Government, provides a 30 year vision and roadmap to guide future planning for waste and resource recovery infrastructure in the state.

One of the key priorities to implement the plan is the **Victorian Waste Education Strategy** (the strategy). The strategy provides a 10 year vision and five year action plan to provide a consistent and coordinated approach to waste and resource recovery education in Victoria.

The strategy identifies six strategic directions in relation to waste and litter. Strategic direction four is to 'reduce litter and illegal dumping' and provides the strategic framework for the Victorian Litter Plan (table 1). The activities within the Victorian Litter Plan will engage Victorian litter managers in targeted, measurable and evidence-based litter prevention activities.

The strategy and the Victorian Litter Plan are led by Sustainability Victoria and delivered in partnership with Victorian Government waste and resource recovery portfolio partners and members of the **Victorian Litter Action Alliance**.

1 Evidence gathering and profiling

In developing the Litter Report Card, 25 organisations that deliver litter prevention and/or management programs were reviewed by desktop and/or interview to examine their purpose, activities and available data sets and reports in relation to litter. The organisations reviewed included localised and specialised groups, regional bodies, statewide authorities and national organisations.

Their work provides significant insight into key litter issues, priorities and performance. Differences in purpose and the delivery of key activities meant the data available from these organisations was not always fully accessible or comparable.

2 Data collation and analysis

The evidence, taken from within the last five years, could be broadly divided into two categories – litter issues and litter program issues, based on significant or consistently identified themes (table 2).

Following the collation of evidence, a multi-criteria analysis (MCA) was undertaken to enable an efficient and objective analysis, considering both the qualitative and quantitative data. The MCA rating framework was designed to weight litter themes and score litter issues, to determine rankings for prioritisation based on environmental, social economic and health and safety impacts.

Table 1 Victorian Litter Plan

Victorian Litter Plan	Victoria's Litter Report Card 2016 A project to research, collate and analyse current litter and illegal dumping data from across Victoria. The Litter Report Card identifies Victoria's top five litter issues, providing evidence for future investment.
	Victorian Litter Innovation Fund A \$700,000 package offering grants of up to \$20,000 for local government, business, community groups, and other organisations to trial innovative solutions to prevent litter and illegal dumping. The Fund is being delivered in 2016–17 in two rounds of \$350,000.
	Interventions on key statewide litter issues Sustainability Victoria will work with land managers and other stakeholders working in litter prevention, clean-up and management to co-design and leverage projects and programs to address Victoria's top five litter issues. For more information on interventions to address Victoria's litter issues please visit SV's website.
	Litter Hotspots Program Litter Hotspots Program (Round 3), part of the Victorian Government's A Cleaner Yarra River and Port Phillip Bay – A Plan of Action , is a grants program to tackle litter issues within the Yarra and Port Phillip Bay catchment and is delivered by the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group.



Cigarette butts were the most frequently identified item across all sites in Victoria, with 12 butts per 1,000m²

(National Litter Index, KABNA 2015)

Table 2 Litter themes identified during data collation

<h2>Litter issues</h2>	<p>Problem litter types Highlighting specific items of concern and the problems associated with the amounts of litter, impacts to the environment, clean-up issues and costs, and the types of materials littered.</p> <p>Geography and concentration Describing common areas identified where litter is either concentrated, as hotspots, or is a widespread problem.</p>
<h2>Litter program issues</h2>	<p>Sources of litter Covering issues involving human behaviour and business practices that lead to litter in the environment.</p> <p>Infrastructure Including issues related to bin infrastructure in public places: bin design, placement, and servicing.</p> <p>Evidence and data / knowledge gaps Including the need for consistent and more robust data and data gathering techniques, particularly for identifying sources of litter and developing litter prevention programs.</p> <p>Resources Including issues relating to a lack of funding for programs and/or the need for more people to work on projects.</p>

Prior to undertaking the MCA it was determined that evidence and data / knowledge gaps, resources and infrastructure would not be weighted and scored as the research suggested that:

- › The issue of evidence and data / knowledge gaps does not impact directly on the environment, society, or economy; rather it is how data is used and interpreted that has the potential to create impacts.
- › Resource needs for litter prevention and management were an ongoing concern across all sectors, and that each sector manages this within their own context. Of note: resourcing litter prevention programs was a common issue raised across all sectors, with ongoing funding of particular concern for the not for profit sector.
- › Infrastructure, in particular public bins, are used to manage already defined litter issues. Therefore they are not an issue which needs attention as such but a tool used in conjunction with other interventions, as part of a holistic litter prevention program.

Undertaking the MCA involved:

- › Identifying the themes and litter issues from the research.
- › Examination of the evidence and determination of weighting (relative importance) for each identified theme.
- › Examination of evidence to rate individual litter issues using the MCA rating framework.
- › Calculation of a final score based on the following formula:
Theme Weighting x Issue Raw Score = Final Score.

Litter issues that scored higher were determined Victoria's higher priority issues and this scoring determined the top five priority litter issues.

A detailed list of the organisations, their evidence, the identified litter themes and issues, as well as process and findings from this analysis is provided in the **Supplement to Victoria's Litter Report Card**.



**80% of people
observed
disposed of
waste by using
bins, 20% littered**

(Victorian Litter Report,
Sustainability Victoria 2013)

3 Victoria's Top Five Litter Issues

- 1 Litter in coastal areas and waterways**
- 2 Illegal dumping of waste**
- 3 Roadside litter**
- 4 Cigarette butt litter**
- 5 Plastic and microplastic litter**

Next steps

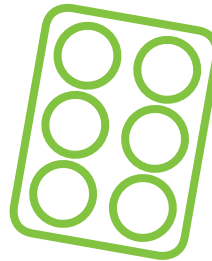
Victoria's Litter Report Card has collected, collated and analysed a range of litter data from litter managers around the state. It provides us with a robust evidence base that has defined our key litter issues to inform future investment in this space.

Further, it has provided a snapshot of the range and breadth of activities currently being undertaken by the various sectors of the Victorian community. Together, using the findings provided in this report card, we can plan and assess our progress towards a less littered Victoria.

Acknowledgements

Sustainability Victoria and Equilibrium acknowledge and thank all the organisations and individuals that assisted in the development of Victoria's Litter Report Card either directly or indirectly, through the reports and data that they publish and make public:

Australian Packaging Covenant, Beach Patrol, Cardinia Shire Council, City of Casey, City of Darebin, City of Greater Dandenong, City of Yarra, Clean Up Australia Ltd, CSIRO, Environment Protection Authority Victoria, VLine, Friends of Williamstown Wetlands, Hume City Council, HVP Plantations, Keep Australia Beautiful National Association, Keep Victoria Beautiful, Manningham City Council, Melbourne Water, Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group, Mornington Peninsula Shire, National Association of Charitable Recycling Organisations, North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group, Port Philip Eco Centre, and Tangaroa Blue Foundation.



Along the coast of Australia, approximately 3/4 of rubbish is plastic

(Understanding the effects of marine debris on wildlife, CSIRO 2014)

Printed on 100% recycled paper

Disclaimer

Information in this document is current as at July 2016. While all professional care has been taken in preparing this document Sustainability Victoria accept no liability for loss or damages incurred as a result of reliance placed upon its content.