

Don't let Queensland be the Rubbish State.

Marine plastic pollution is devastating to wildlife and a healthy environment. It must be stopped.

Plastics and drink containers are still a major problem in Queensland, according to the latest Clean Up Australia Rubbish report. Beverage containers still represented over 37% of the Top 10 items reported by volunteers in 2014. And on release of the National Litter Index, Keep Queensland Beautiful said: "Queenslanders and visitors to the Sunshine State should be ashamed of this result. Will our next tourism slogan be beautiful one day, filthy the next?"

Consecutive Queensland state governments have failed the community by not paying enough attention to the management of rubbish. Queensland is the only state where the incidence of litter is increasing, while the state's recycling performance has been dropping steadily.

It's deadly to marine life. Studies in Moreton Bay have found the ingestion of plastic debris was responsible for about 30% of all turtle deaths. Thousands of sea birds also die along the coast.

It's our responsibility and government must act.

The 2012 study of marine debris by the CSIRO found:

"...three-quarters of the rubbish along the coast is plastic. Most is from Australian sources, not the high seas, with debris concentrated near cities. Rubbish found included glass and plastic bottles, cans, bags, balloons, pieces of rubber, metal and fibreglass as well as fishing gear and other items lost or discarded in or near the sea."

It's time for Queensland to act or risk becoming the rubbish State.



Beautiful one day, filthy the next.

 **BOOMERANG**
ALLIANCE

The facts

Litter

According to the Keep Australia Beautiful 'National Litter Index', Queensland:

- Has the highest litter incidence in Australia, with some 72 items found in every 1,000 sq metres surveyed - 40% higher than the national average! The most littered item by volume is drink cans and bottles.
- Over the past five years the amount of litter found in each 1,000 sq metres nationally has dropped by an average of 20%. In Qld it has dropped by just 5.5%.
- Last year the incidence of litter in Queensland actually increased by 6.8%.
- 85% of Queenslanders support a container deposit scheme in their state [Newspoll, 16-18 January 2015].

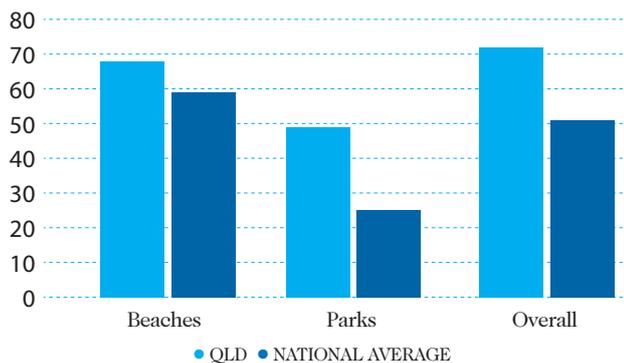
Marine Debris

- The material which represented the greatest volume of litter was plastics (which break down and can also attract toxic chemicals) devastating marine life through ingestion and potentially entering our food chain.
- Commonwealth studies show 43% of seabirds were found to have plastics in their gut and around a third of all sea turtles are believed to have ingested plastics.
- Globally it is estimated that 100,000 marine mammals and turtles and 1 million sea birds die every year from ingesting or becoming entangled in marine debris.

Waste & Recycling

- Over the 4 years from 2006/07 to 2010/11 (the most recent data) the amount of material recycled per capita in Queensland has actually fallen by 20%. By comparison the amount of waste (per capita) recycled nationally has increased by 20% (2013 National Waste report).
- Under-priced landfilling has seen disreputable waste transporters trucking at least 500,000 tonnes into Queensland from other states each year; adding over 20,000 semi-trailer loads of freight onto Queensland highways.
- Illegal dumping and stockpiling of waste is becoming a major risk. Boomerang Alliance is currently monitoring at least six huge dump sites around Brisbane that are considered to be a major hazard to community safety.
- Queensland recycled just 42% of all waste generated - dwarfed in comparison to South Australia's 77%, Victoria's 72% and NSW at 63%.
- The most significant Queensland announcement to improve waste and recycling in recent years was to join the packaging industry's National Bin Network in August 2012 - recently deemed inadequate by NSW - and after some 18 months with no discernible progress.

QLD LITTER: Number of items per 1,000m²



85% of Queenslanders support a container deposit scheme in their state.

What we seek

1. Ban single-use plastic bags

- Ban single use plastic bags by 2017 (and other identified non-biodegradable plastic packaging*). Within 100 days of gaining government release a public discussion paper on options to restrict and phase out plastic bags and other identified plastic packaging.

* Plastic packaging includes plastic take-away containers, plastic food trays and items, such as a cling film. These should be phased out and replaced with alternative reusable/ biodegradable materials or compostable plastics.

2. Introduce refundable deposits for drink containers

- NSW is set to introduce a container deposit scheme on beverage containers. This should be extended to Queensland. Within 100 days of gaining government commit to an investigation, as outlined in ALP Policy. The government should join the NSW implementation process.

3. Draft Waste Avoidance and Resource Productivity Strategy

The Queensland government needs to strengthen the proposed strategy to ensure that Queensland becomes 'a national leader in waste and resource recovery'.

- Reconsider a waste levy or, if not, introduce statutory limits on identified wastes going to landfill
- Set waste and recycling targets, aimed at achieving similar or better goals to NSW over the next decade.

Review regulations that have allowed extensive illegal dumping of tyres since 2012.

JOIN OUR CAMPAIGN

www.boomerangalliance.org.au