



Gabrielle Upton
Minister for the Environment

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW CUTS LITTER BY A THIRD

NSW litter has dropped by 37 per cent since 2013 and Return and Earn is responsible for a one third reduction in its type of drink container litter.

According to new litter figures for NSW from Keep Australia Beautiful announced by Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton:

- Total litter volume has reduced by 37 per cent from 2013-14 which means the state is 3% off its litter volume reduction target.
- Takeaway container litter has reduced by 19 per cent from 2016-17.
- Print and advertising litter has reduced by 35 per cent.

“Return and Earn’s impact is shown by looking at the scheme coordinator’s figures for the three months from March to May 2018, which show it collected for around 67per cent of all containers supplied into NSW in that period,” Ms Upton said.

“This shows the immediate positive impact the container deposit scheme is having on reducing drink container litter, which is the largest proportion of all litter volume in NSW.

“Overall, there has been a 33 per cent drop in Return and Earn eligible drink containers in the litter stream since November 2017 – the month before the scheme was introduced on 1 December.

“On average three million containers a day are being collected at return points. More than 560 million containers have been processed by Return and Earn so far and as more collection points are rolled out, these results can only increase and the amount of litter will decrease.

“The NSW Government’s commitment of \$30 million to 2021 to reduce litter and littering behaviour through the Waste Less Recycle More initiative is having the right effect.

“Such a huge drop shows the NSW Government’s range of anti-litter initiatives are working.

“I encourage the NSW community to continue returning their eligible drink containers and in their other efforts to reduce litter in our communities.”

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