



**NATIONAL LITTER INDEX
2017 - 2018**

NORTHERN TERRITORY RESULTS

**KEEP AUSTRALIA BEAUTIFUL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
August 2018**

www.kab.org.au

Northern Territory

Key Messages and Insights

- There was a 34.5% decline in litter counted in 2017/18.
- Less litter observed across all site types in 2017/18.
- The overall lower litter observed was mainly attributed to the drop in cigarette related litter, takeaway packaging litter, beverage containers, other general litter and other paper litter.
- There was also 7.2% decrease in litter volume (excludes illegal dumping) in NT in 2017/18 compared to 2016/17
- While the overall fall in the volume of litter was mainly attributed to lower volumes of takeaway packaging and beverage containers in the litter stream.
- Retail and industrial precincts have by the highest litter loads
- The most significant change in volumetric terms was a decline in litter volume of beverage containers at beaches in 2017/18

Survey Specifics

The national litter index surveys 76 sites across the Northern Territory, with an area surveyed of 116,172 square metres with primary focus on suburban areas around Darwin and Alice Springs. The breakdown is shown in the table below.

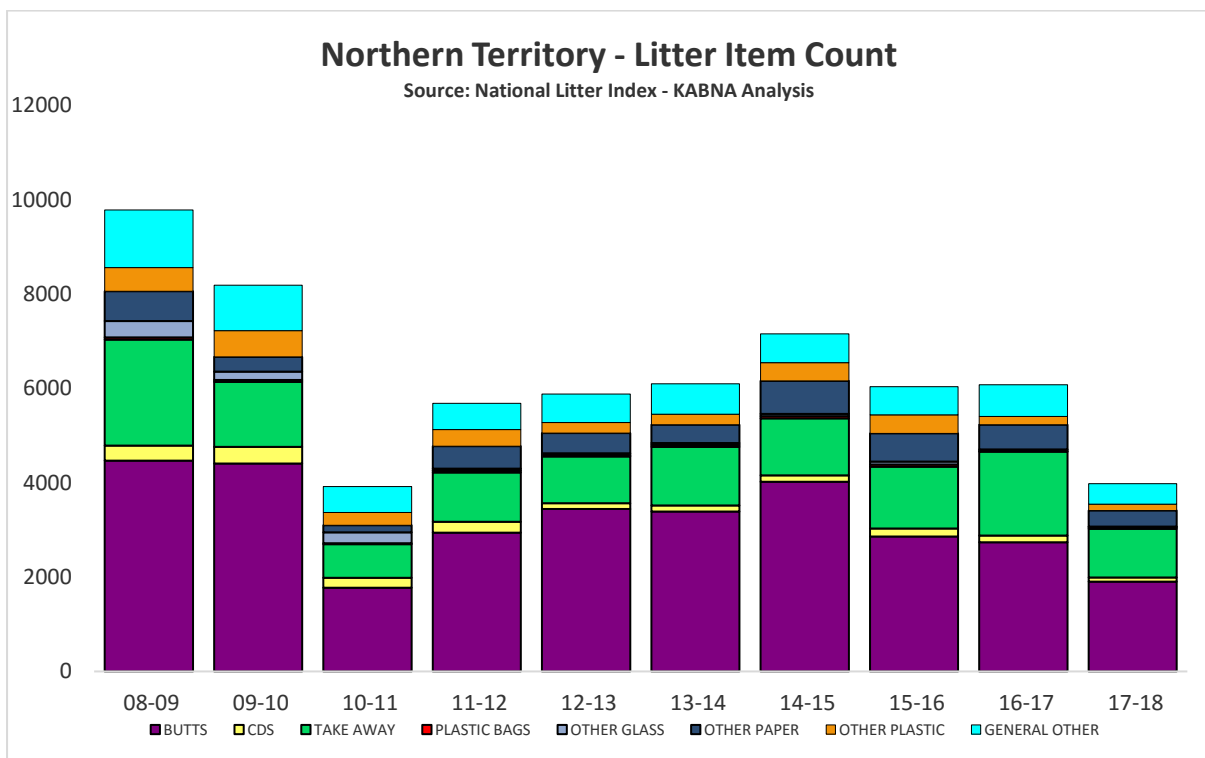
NORTHERN TERRITORY				
Site Types	Number Surveyed			Area Surveyed (sq m)
	Suburban	Regional	Total	
Beaches	5	3	8	4,000
Car Parks	9	2	11	14,680
Major Roads/Highways	8	5	13	43,660
Industrial Precincts	7	2	9	10,800
Recreational Parks	4	3	7	10,550
Residential Streets	11	2	13	18,141
Retail Precincts	5	3	8	5,791
Shopping Centres	6	1	7	8,550
TOTAL	55	21	76	116,172

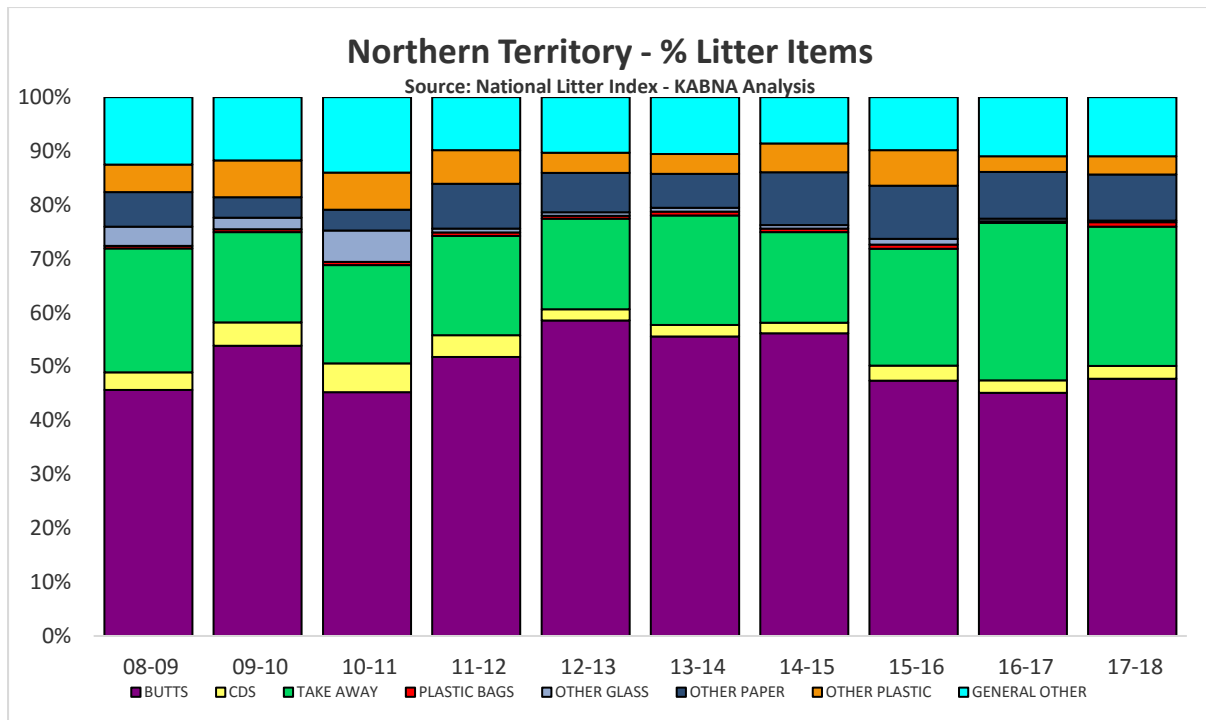
Litter Counts

As represented in the following table, the 2017/18 litter monitor counted 34.5% less litter items than counted in 2016/17. There was a decrease across all litter categories with the exception of plastic bags which experienced a small increase. The overall decrease was mostly driven by decreases in cigarette related litter (-30.6%), takeaway packaging litter (-42.0%) and other general litter (-33.7%), other paper litter (-35.3%) and beverage containers (-33.5%).

NT		Items								
		Beach	Car Park	Highway	Industrial	Recreational Park	Residential	Retail	Shopping Centre	Total
NT 2017/18	Butts & Packaging	84	472	313	221	86	148	279	300	1901
	Beverage Containers	2	7	50	8	5	11	1	11	94
	Takeaway Food & Beverage	82	188	212	118	51	135	120	125	1028
	Other Glass			9	1		1			11
	Other Paper	20	36	73	55	14	41	76	28	341
	Other Plastic	6	16	31	21	5	25	22	11	136
	General Other	15	61	96	78	12	77	39	60	436
	Plastic Bags	1	5	12	4		8	2	4	34
	Illegal Dumping			1		1	1			2
	GRAND TOTAL	209	783	795	504	173	445	537	538	3981
NT 2016/17	Butts & Packaging	95	646	370	287	138	118	618	469	2739
	Beverage Containers	19	13	55	22	3	14	9	7	141
	Takeaway Food & Beverage	80	459	345	190	75	187	318	120	1773
	Other Glass		3	14	2		3	7	2	30
	Other Paper	15	64	159	67	17	57	118	31	527
	Other Plastic	10	33	37	29	9	20	35	6	178
	General Other	43	128	139	104	15	65	73	91	658
	Plastic Bags	3	7	6	3	1	3	3	4	29
	Illegal Dumping			1	2	1	1			3
	GRAND TOTAL	265	1351	1125	705	257	466	1179	729	6075
% REDUCTION	Butts & Packaging	12.1%	27.0%	15.4%	23.2%	37.5%	-26.0%	54.9%	36.0%	30.6%
	Beverage Containers	89.5%	44.0%	9.1%	63.6%	-80.0%	25.0%	88.2%	-50.0%	33.5%
	Takeaway Food & Beverage	-1.9%	59.1%	38.7%	38.2%	32.2%	27.8%	62.3%	-3.8%	42.0%
	Other Glass		100.0%	35.7%	50.0%		66.7%	100.0%	100.0%	63.3%
	Other Paper	-34.5%	44.5%	54.1%	18.0%	17.6%	27.4%	36.0%	11.3%	35.3%
	Other Plastic	40.0%	51.5%	17.6%	27.6%	47.1%	-25.6%	36.2%	-83.3%	23.7%
	General Other	65.1%	52.7%	30.9%	25.1%	20.0%	-17.7%	46.9%	33.7%	33.7%
	Plastic Bags	66.7%	30.8%	-118.2%	-16.7%	100.0%	-150.0%	50.0%		-19.3%
	Illegal Dumping				100.0%					20.0%
	Grand Total (excluding illegal dumping)	21.2%	42.1%	29.3%	28.4%	32.9%	4.6%	54.5%	26.3%	34.5%
GRAND TOTAL	21.2%	42.1%	29.3%	28.5%	32.7%	4.6%	54.5%	26.3%	34.5%	

The following chart demonstrates the continuing drop in litter levels in NT from 2014/15, with the most notable decline over that time amongst cigarette related litter. The overall proportions of litter items amongst different litter categories has however remained similar.





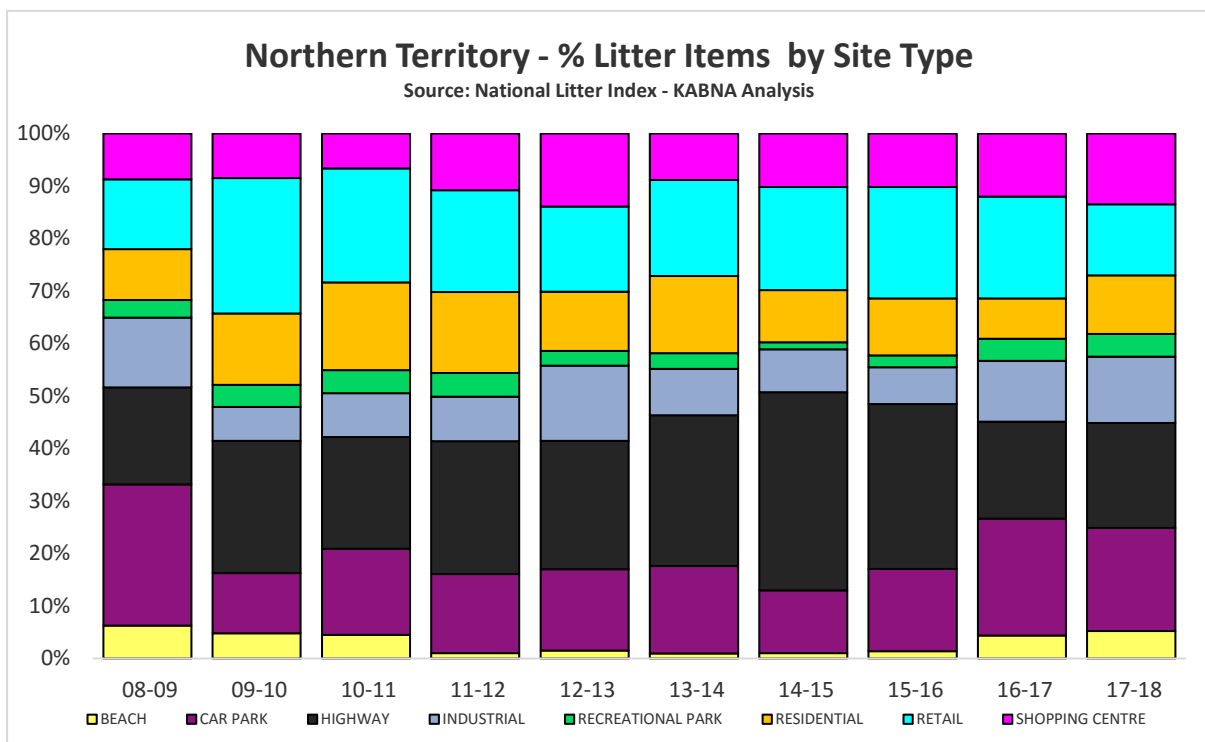
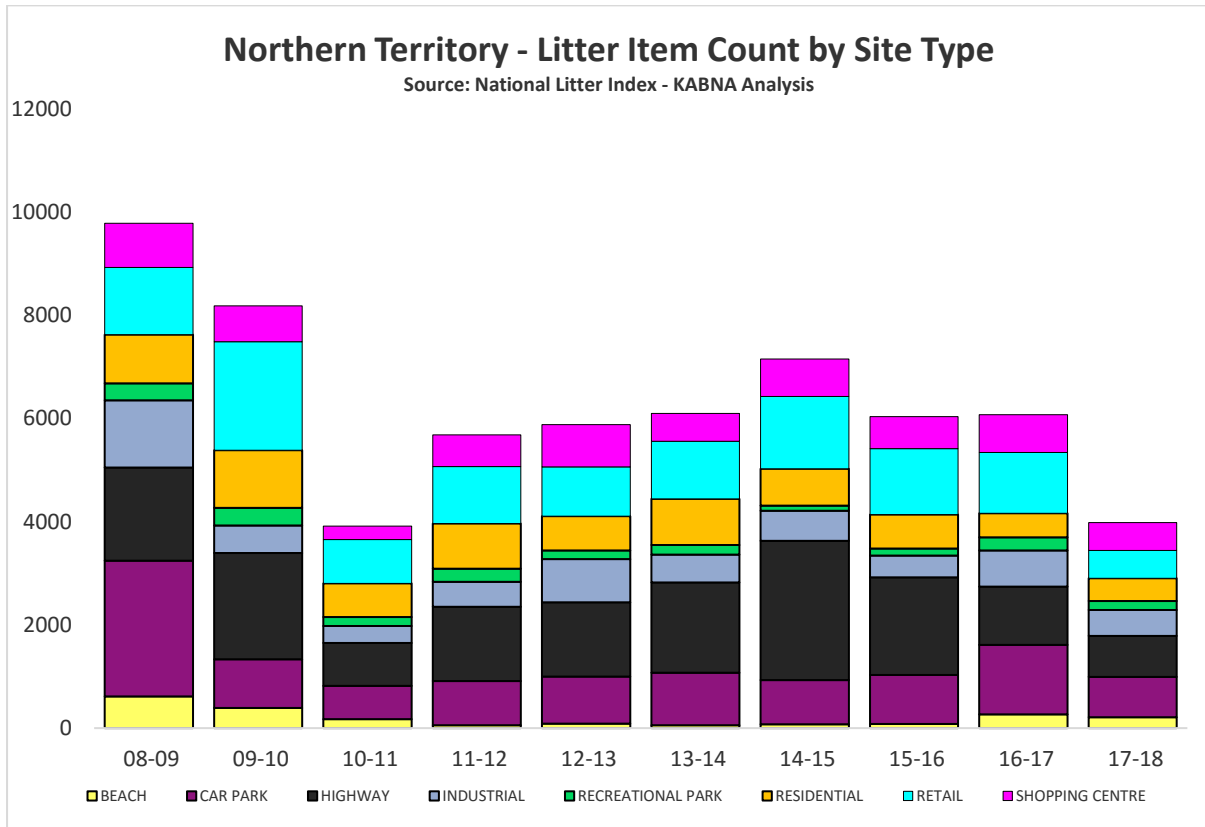
Volumetric Impacts

There was 7.2% decrease in litter volume (excludes illegal dumping) in NT compared to 2016/17 litter monitor. The overall decrease was mainly attributed to lower volumes of beverage containers and takeaway packaging in the litter stream was evident at highways, residential sites and retail precincts.

NT		Volume - Litres									
		Beach	Car Park	Highway	Industrial	Recreational Park	Residential	Retail	Shopping Centre	Total	
NT 2017/18	Butts & Packaging	0.007	0.599	1.451	0.570	0.119	0.779	0.462	0.470	4.456	
	Beverage Containers	0.791	3.449	30.908	4.850	1.878	7.535	0.533	6.167	56.111	
	Takeaway Food & Beverage	4.497	9.559	19.954	13.427	2.675	7.860	5.567	10.415	73.954	
	Other Glass			0.177	0.020		0.020			0.216	
	Other Paper	0.066	0.120	0.247	0.184	0.047	0.139	0.255	0.093	1.151	
	Other Plastic	0.008	0.020	0.038	0.026	0.006	0.031	0.029	0.014	0.171	
	General Other	6.041	11.030	43.170	40.004	1.542	41.892	14.042	10.462	168.182	
	Plastic Bags	0.061	0.153	0.568	0.199		0.389	0.051	0.163	1.583	
	Illegal Dumping			12.000			24.000	12.000		48.000	
	GRAND TOTAL		11.469	24.930	108.513	59.280	30.267	70.643	20.940	27.783	353.824
NT 2016/17	Butts & Packaging	0.328	1.697	1.938	1.212	0.769	1.224	0.738	1.024	8.930	
	Beverage Containers	9.718	8.169	42.283	15.390	4.676	14.124	8.182	6.510	109.052	
	Takeaway Food & Beverage	3.054	14.753	43.592	10.305	0.689	22.553	17.186	6.457	118.588	
	Other Glass	0.029	0.059	0.746	0.088	0.020	0.059	0.157	0.098	1.257	
	Other Paper	0.015	0.260	0.698	0.196	0.052	0.333	0.292	0.166	2.013	
	Other Plastic	0.005	0.041	0.228	0.055	0.009	0.060	0.063	0.034	0.494	
	General Other	8.500	7.562	18.188	9.488	16.168	18.217	5.444	3.048	86.614	
	Plastic Bags	0.260	0.112	1.002	0.399	0.017	0.400	0.189	0.180	2.559	
	Illegal Dumping				24.000		24.000		24.000	72.000	
	GRAND TOTAL		21.909	32.653	108.675	61.133	22.400	80.970	32.252	41.516	401.507
% REDUCTION	Butts & Packaging	97.9%	64.7%	25.1%	53.0%	84.6%	36.4%	37.5%	54.1%	50.1%	
	Beverage Containers	91.9%	57.8%	26.9%	68.5%	59.8%	46.7%	93.5%	5.3%	48.5%	
	Takeaway Food & Beverage	-47.3%	35.2%	54.2%	-30.3%	-288.3%	65.1%	67.6%	-61.3%	37.6%	
	Other Glass	100.0%	100.0%	76.3%	77.8%	100.0%	66.7%	100.0%	100.0%	82.8%	
	Other Paper	-333.3%	53.9%	64.6%	6.0%	9.7%	58.4%	12.7%	43.9%	42.8%	
	Other Plastic	-50.0%	50.8%	83.2%	52.3%	40.0%	49.0%	54.5%	59.3%	65.5%	
	General Other	28.9%	-45.9%	-137.4%	-321.6%	90.5%	-130.0%	-158.0%	-243.2%	-94.2%	
	Plastic Bags	76.6%	-36.8%	43.3%	50.0%	100.0%	2.9%	73.1%	9.5%	38.1%	
	Illegal Dumping				100.0%		50.0%		100.0%	33.3%	
	Grand Total (excluding illegal dumping)	47.6%	23.7%	11.2%	-59.6%	72.0%	-2.9%	35.1%	-58.6%	7.2%	
GRAND TOTAL	47.6%	23.7%	0.1%	3.0%	-35.1%	12.8%	35.1%	33.1%	11.9%		

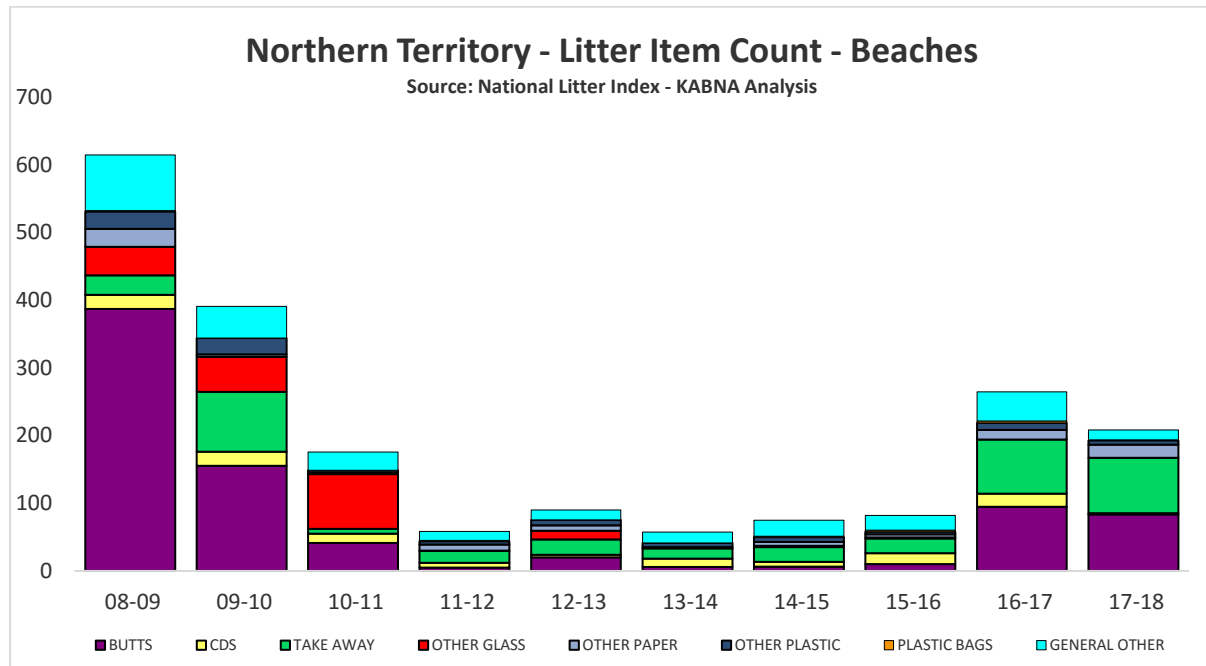
Littering Location

The breakdown of the location of the litter in the 2017/18 litter monitor is demonstrated in the following chart. Compared to the 2016/17 survey there was less litter recorded across all site types with the largest reductions in litter counted at car parks, highways and retail precincts.



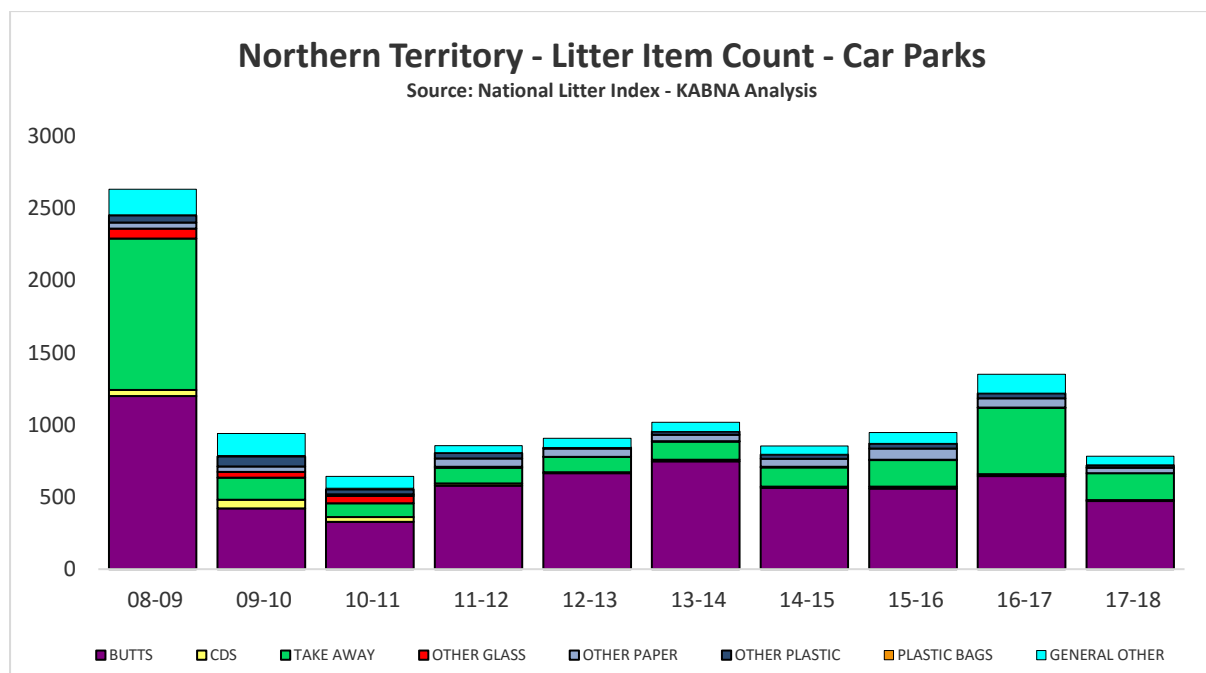
Beaches and Recreational Swimming Locations

Litter levels on the NT beaches dropped by 21.2% from 2016/17, however, they were still above the number of litter items counted from 2011/12 to 2015/16 mainly due to higher counts of cigarette related litter and takeaway packaging. The overall decrease in litter at beaches in 2017/18 was mainly attributed to lower counts of cigarette related litter, beverage containers and other general litter from 2016/17.



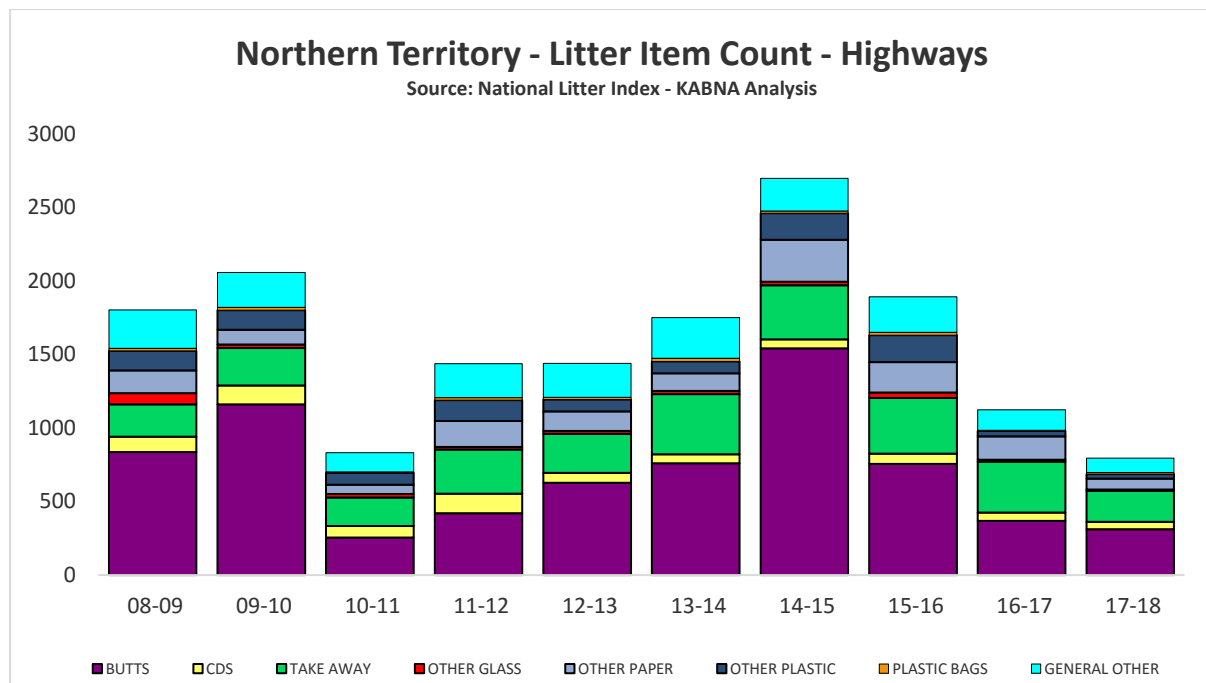
Car Parks

Litter in NT car parks fell by 42.1% in 2017/18 after an increase in 2016/17, the fall was mainly attributed to lower counts of takeaway packaging litter, cigarette related litter and other general litter from the previous monitor.



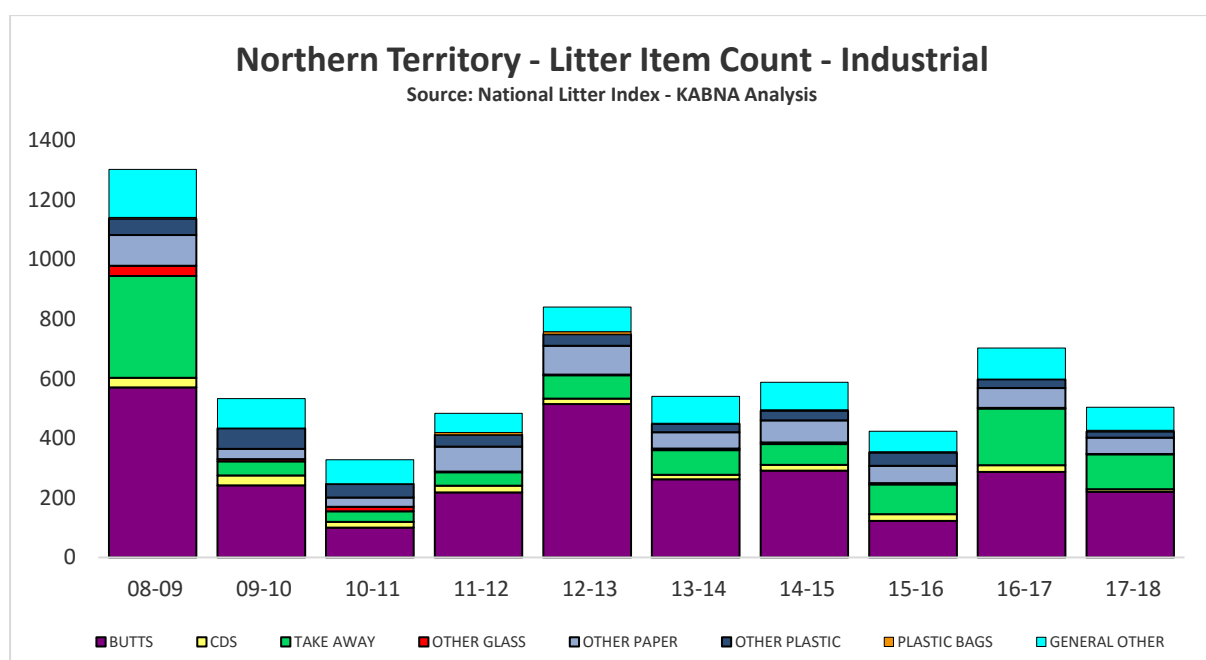
Major Roads/Highways

The 2017/18 litter monitor recorded 29.3% less litter on major roads/highways, compared to 2016/17. The largest reductions were observed among takeaway packaging, cigarette related litter and other paper and other general litter. A downward trend of litter items at major roads/highways is evident in the following chart over the last 4 years.



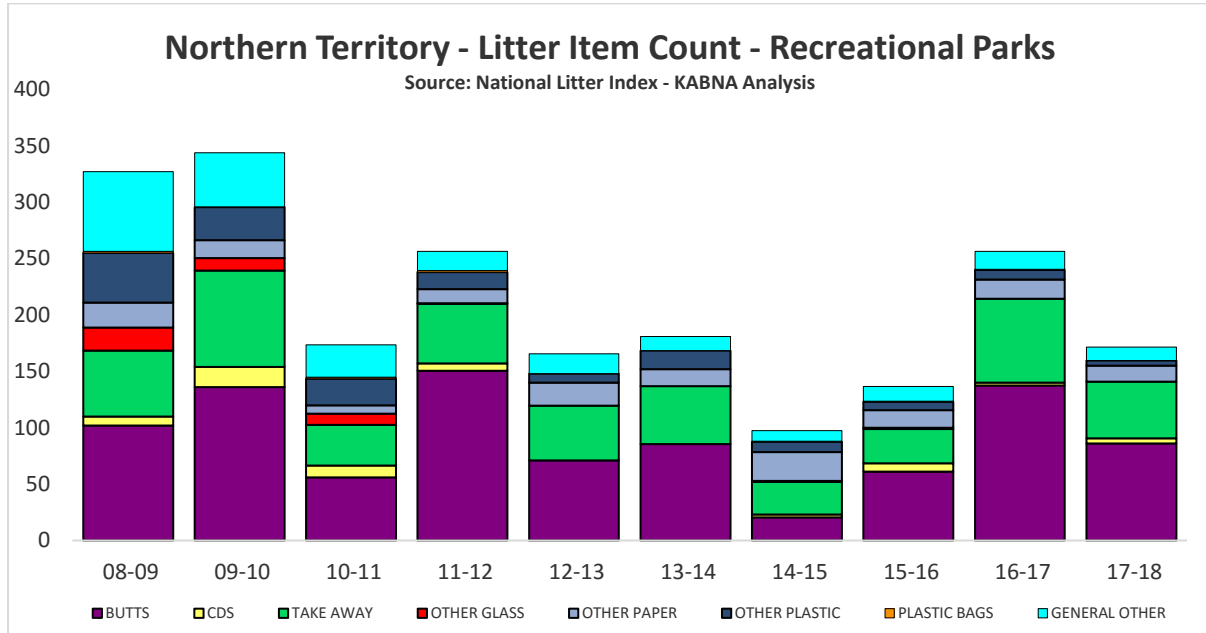
Industrial Precincts

There was a 28.5% decline in litter items recorded at NT industrial precincts in 2017/18 after an increase in 2016/17. The decrease in litter was mainly attributed to lower counts of cigarettes related litter and takeaway packaging litter. The following charts indicates a degree of volatility in the litter levels observed at NT industrial precinct over the longer term.



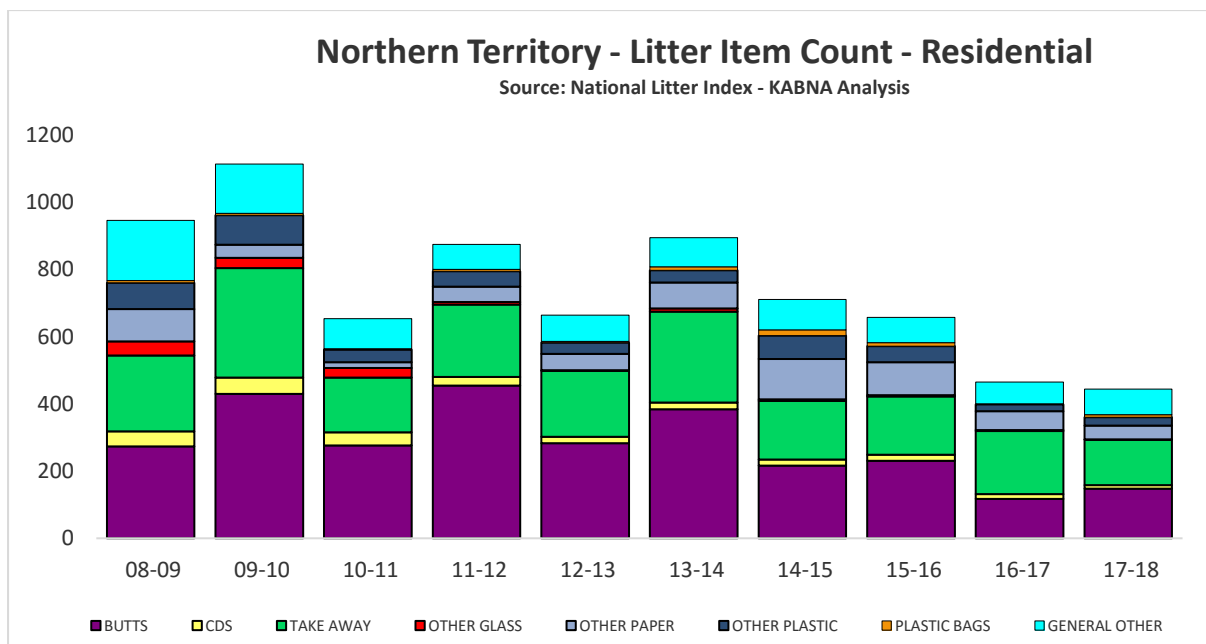
Recreational Parks

There was a 32.7% drop in litter items recorded at NT recreational parks in 2017/18 after increases in the previous two monitors in 2015/16 and 2016/17. The decrease in litter was also mainly due to lower counts of cigarettes related litter and takeaway packaging litter.



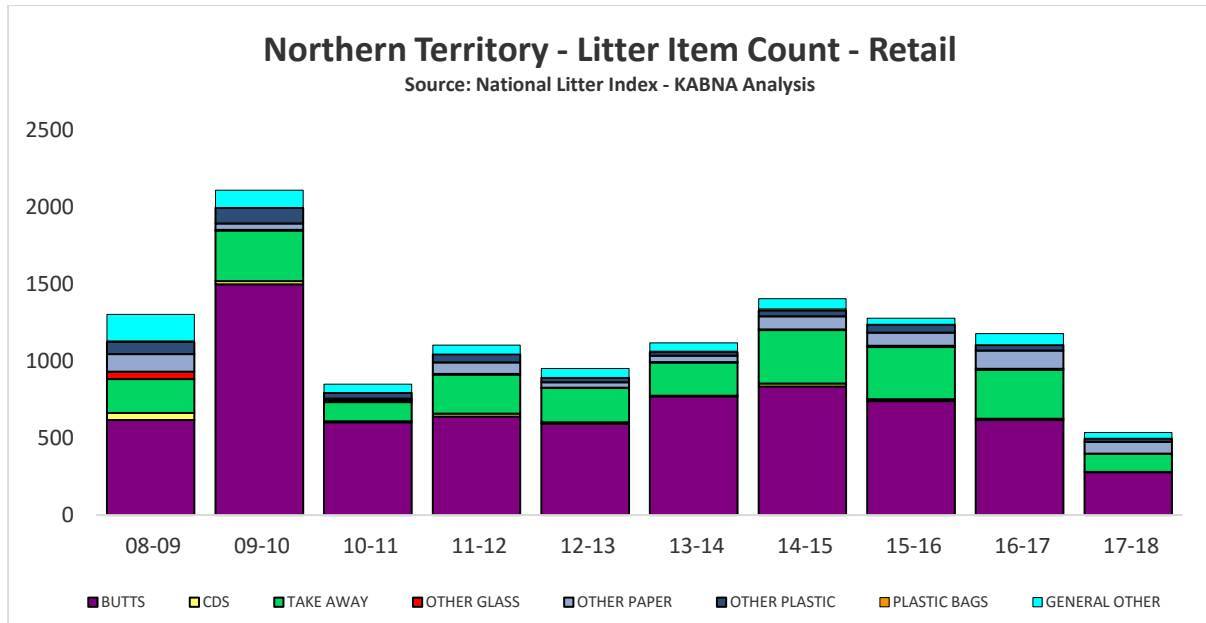
Residential Streets

Litter in residential streets experienced a modest fall of 4.6% in 2017/18. The fall was mainly attributed to by lower takeaway packaging and other paper litter items. The lower litter was offset to some degree with increases mainly in cigarette related litter and other general litter.



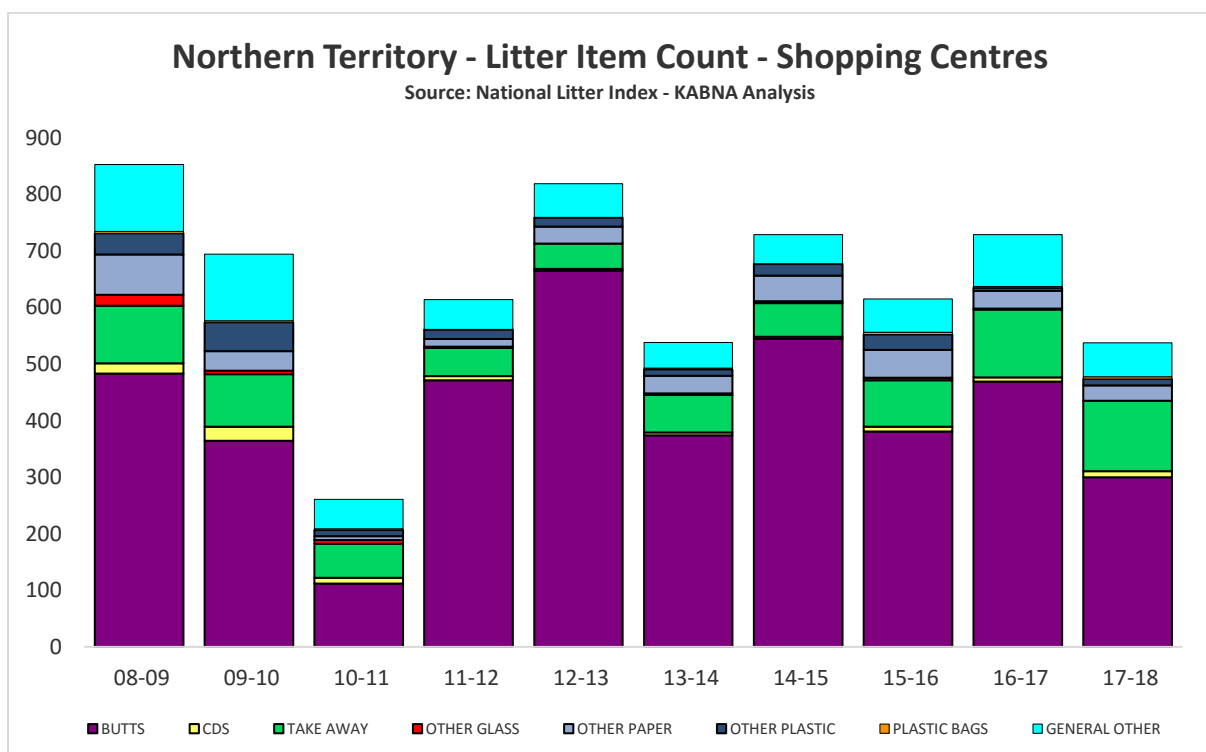
Retail Precincts

There was a substantial drop of 54.5% in litter levels at retail precincts in 2017/18 with less litter observed across all litter categories. Cigarette related litter and takeaway litter contributed the largest drops to the overall litter at retail precincts.



Shopping Centres

Litter counts at Northern Territory shopping centres have shown significant year-on-year volatility. In the 2017/18 litter monitor, 26.3% less litter was observed with the decrease driven mainly by entirely by cigarette litter and other general litter. There were however, increases in beverage containers and takeaway packaging litter counts at shopping centres.



Normalisation for Area Surveyed

Litter items per 1,000m²

As demonstrated in the tables below, when the area surveyed is taken in to account, there was on average of 34 litter items per 1000m² across NT sites in 2017/18, down from 52 litter items per 1000m² in the 2016/17 monitor. Retail precincts have significantly higher litter loads compared to other sites with 93 litter items recorded per 1000m² in the 2017/18, down from 204 litter items per 1000m² in 2016/17.

NT		Items								
		Beach	Car Park	Highway	Industrial	Recreational Park	Residential	Retail	Shopping Centre	Total
NT 2017/18	Areas Surveyed	4000	14680	43660	10800	10550	18141	5791	8550	116172
	Items counted (excl illegal dumping)	209	783	795	504	172	444	537	538	3979
	Per 1,000 sq m	52	53	18.20	47	16	24	93	63	34
NT 2016/17	Areas Surveyed	4000	14680	43660	10800	10550	18141	5791	8550	116172
	Items counted excl illegal dumping)	265	1351	1124	703	257	466	1179	729	6073
	Per 1,000 sq m	66	92	26	65	24	26	204	85	52

Litter volume per 1,000m² (excluding illegal dumping)

Similarly, when the area surveyed is taken in to account there was on average of 2.63 litres per 1000m² of litter across NT sites in 2017/18, down from 2.95 litres per 1000m² in 2016/17.

A different result emerged in volumetric terms, however, with litter loads greater at industrial sites (5.49 litres per 1000m², up from 3.30 litres per 1000m² in 2016/17).

The most significant change in volumetric terms was a decline in volume of beverage containers at beaches in 2017/18.

NT		Volume - Litres								
		Beach	Car Park	Highway	Industrial	Recreational Park	Residential	Retail	Shopping Centre	Total
NT 2017/18	Areas Surveyed	4000	14680	43660	10800	10550	18141	5791	8550	116172
	Volume (excl illegal dumping)	11.469	24.930	96.513	59.280	6.267	58.643	20.940	27.783	305.824
	Per 1,000 sq m	2.87	1.70	2.21	5.49	0.59	3.23	3.62	3.25	2.63
NT 2016/17	Areas Surveyed	4000	14680	43660	10800	10550	18141	5791	8550	116172
	Volume (excl illegal dumping)	42.599	57.894	94.347	35.628	4.639	39.739	30.243	37.209	342.300
	Per 1,000 sq m	10.65	3.94	2.16	3.30	0.44	2.19	5.22	4.35	2.95

Detailed Litter Count Tables – NT

NT - NOV 2017 & MAY 18 AVERAGE		Items									Beverage Containers		Takeaway Food	
		Beach	Car Park	Highway	Industrial	Recreational Park	Residential	Retail	Shopping Centre	Total	Beverage container	Items	Takeaway Food	Items
CIGARETTE BUTTS		84	469	306	218	86	145	277	298	1881				
GLASS	Alcoholic sodas / spirit-based mixers, all sizes		1	1	1	1			1	3	y	3		
	Beer, all colours of glass, <750ml		3	1						4	y	4		
	Beer, all colours of glass, 750ml+										y			
	Cider/fruit based etc.				1					1	y	1		
	Flav.wtr/frt/j.dr/sprts dr. (non-carb). <1 litre										y			
	Flav.wtr/frt/j.dr/sprts dr. (non-carb). 1 litre+										y			
	Flav. water/soft drink (carbonated) <1 litre										y			
	Flav. water/soft drink (carbonated) 1 litre+										y			
	Fruit juice, < 1 litre										y			
	Fruit juice, 1 litre+		1									1		
	Other glass				9	1						11		
	Plain water (carbonated or non-carb). <1 litre											y		
	Plain water (carbonated or non-carb). 1 litre+											y		
Wine & spirit, all sizes		1	1			1				2				
Wine cooler, all sizes							1			1	y	1		
Total		5	12	2	1	2		1	1	21	y	8		
ILLEGAL DUMPING				1		1	1			2				
METAL	Aerosols - pressure packs				2		1		1	3				
	Alcoholic sodas & spirit-based mixers		1		1	1	1			3	y	3		
	Beer, aluminium, all types, all sizes			7		2	2		1	11	y	11		
	Cider/fruit based etc.										y			
	Flav. water/soft drink, (carbonated), all sizes	2	1	10	3	1	3	1	5	23	y	23		
	Flav. water/soft drink, (non-carb), all sizes										y			
	Foil take away	7	3	7	8	3	3	5	5	39			y	39
	Food cans (including pet food)	2		3	4		7	1	1	16				
	Industrial cans - all types			1	2					4				
	Metal bottle tops and can pull rings	12	33	22	22	9	16	22	15	149			y	149
	Metal pieces	2	1	9	3	1	4	4	1	23				
	Other foil		5	9	4	1	8	5	3	34				
	Total	23	43	65	47	16	41	37	31	302		36		188
MISCELLANEOUS	Clothing & materials	2	5	12	6	2	5	4	3	37				
	Condoms				1			1		1				
	Construction materials				1				1	2				
	Disposable nappies		1	1	1	1	2			5				
	Ice cream sticks	3	6	4	7	1	8	6	8	41			y	41
	Other miscellaneous		1	1						2				
	Rubber pieces (not tyres)	1		9	1	3	2	1		16				
	Syringes		1		1					1				
	Tyres & pieces		1	2	1					3				
	Total	5	14	28	17	5	16	11	12	106				41
	PAPER/PAPERBOARD	Cartons, flavoured milk < 1 litre		1	3			2		1	6	y	6	
Cartons, flavoured milk 1 litre+					1					1				
Cartons, fruit juice, < 1 litre				1						1	y	1		
Cartons, fruit juice, 1 litre+					1			1		1				
Cartons, milk, plain (white), all sizes				1				1		1				
Cigarette packets		3	7	3	1	4	2	2	2	20				
Cups/take away containers		2	18	6	1	3	10	2	40				y	40
Coffee cups		4	7	9	1	6	3	10	37				y	37
Flav. water/fruit j. drink/sports drink, non-carb. <1 litre		1		3	1				4		y	4		
Flav. water / fruit j. drink/ sports drink, (non-carb), 1 litre+									1		y	1		
Ice cream wrappers		2	4	12	1		3	5	2	28			y	28
Junk mail / free circulars			6	3	6		8	3	4	30				
Newspapers & magazines			2	2	4		5	2	3	18				
Other paper		20	36	73	55	14	41	76	28	341				
Packages & boxes		2	3	10	10	1	8	1	5	39				
Paper bags		2	6	17	9		10	8	6	55				
Shopper dockets & related shopping paper (eg. lists)		3	24	2	6	1	8	6	24	73				
Tickets, e.g. bus, ATM, vending machine etc.		2	1	2				1	7					
Total	28	89	156	110	17	97	115	93	704		11		105	
PLASTIC	6 ring can holders	1		1	1	1				3				
	Bags - heavier glossy typically branded carry bags	1		3	2		3		1	8				
	Bags - supermarket type light weight carry bags	1	5	9	2		5	2	4	26				
	Bread bag tags	1	1	3	2	2	2	4		13				
	Containers, domestic type	1	1	3	1		3	1		7				
	Containers, industrial e.g. oil				1					1				
	Drink pouches		1	3	1					3	y	3		
	Flav. milk, <1 litre	1		3	1		2			5	y	5		
	Flav. milk, 1 litre+				1					1	y	1		
	Flav.wtr/frt/j.dr. sprts dr etc.(non-carb) <1 litre		1	8			1			9	y	9		
	Flav.wtr/frt/j.dr. sprts dr etc.(non-carb) 1 litre+			2						3	y	3		
	Flav. water/soft drink (carbonated) <1 litre		1	6	2		1	1	2	11	y	11		
	Flav. water/soft drink (carbonated) 1 litre+			4			2			6	y	6		
	Fruit juice <1 litre			4		1				5	y	5		
	Fruit juice, 1 litre+			1			1			2				
	Lollipop sticks	1	4	4	1	2	2	1	1	14			y	14
	Other plastic	6	16	31	21	5	25	22	11	136				
	Packing tape & straps		1	2	3	1	1			6				
	Plain water (carbonated or non-carb) <1 litre			1	1	1	1			4	y	4		
	Plain water (carbonated or non-carb) 1 litre+										y			
	Plastic bottle tops	29	50	48	29	6	36	31	26	252			y	252
	Sacks - sheeting - other bags			1	2					3				
	Snack bags & confectionary wrappers	15	43	21	6	19	20	12	28	164			y	164
	Spoons/ cutlery	3	6	16	9	5	9	7	6	58			y	58
	Straws	8	18	32	16	4	25	15	17	133			y	133
	Styrene foam boxes, sheets, etc			2	4		1			8				
	Take away & cups	5	18	24	6	3	8	5	7	75			y	75
White milk, all sizes			1	1		1			2					
Wine cask bladders	2	2	2	4	1	2		2	14					
Total	70	164	229	110	48	145	98	104	966		45		695	
GRAND TOTAL	209	783	795	504	173	445	537	538	3981		99		1028	

