



MEDIA RELEASE

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Keep Australia Beautiful calls for national action on litter prevention

"The Australian Government Consultation Paper which is intended to lead to a National Waste Policy to 2020 is flawed", says Keep Australia Beautiful National Association Chairman Don Chambers.

"It ignores real community concern about litter when it states on page 35 that: *'the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) noted that national litter levels have been steady for at least the last three years and concluded that no additional national action on litter is required at this stage.'*

"I raised this with the many community volunteers who recently gathered in Canberra for the Australian Tidy Towns Awards and they agreed that this attitude was just not good enough, litter needs to be part of the national waste policy", says Chambers.

"Through their involvement with Keep Australia Beautiful, we see tens of thousands of local community volunteers working year round to improve their local environment, with many of their programs demonstrating a real need for litter prevention initiatives right across Australia.

"If our Environmental Ministers think that the current level of litter across Australia is at an acceptable level then they need to get out of their offices and talk to their communities and Local Governments", Chambers added.

Keep Australia Beautiful carries out research twice a year at 975 sites to compile the National Litter Index, which is Australia's only national, annual, quantitative measure of litter. The Index shows that litter by count and by volume continues to be a serious local environmental issue and cost to Local Governments.

Chambers has spoken out in the lead up to the EPHC meeting being held this Friday 22 May and is asking State, Territory and Australian Environment Ministers to give litter the priority that so many community members feel it deserves, and take National Action on this telling indictment of Australian society.

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About Keep Australia Beautiful:

The purpose of Keep Australia Beautiful is to lead, challenge and inspire All Australians to strive for a sustainable and litter free environment. Our objectives are to lead, influence and advocate for environmental sustainability; honour achievement in environmental endeavor; provide support through education, innovation, engagement and research; and to deliver effective partnerships and programs ensuring mutually beneficial environmental outcomes. National programs include the Australian Tidy Towns, Clean Beaches and Sustainable Cities Awards; the National Litter Index (results released in August) and Keep Australia Beautiful Week (24 – 30 August 2009).