



11 November 2016

Media Statement

Keep the roads clean this summer

Keep Australia Beautiful WA and Main Roads WA are helping motorists to be responsible this holiday season and keep their rubbish until they can dispose of it properly.

The 'WA naturally thanks you' program is providing free car litter bags at selected roadhouses on Forrest Highway, Great Eastern Highway and Brand Highway.

Motorists are being asked to use the car litter bags to keep their rubbish until they can put it in a bin.

According to the 2015-16 National Litter Index, 54 per cent of the volume of litter along roadsides is made up of glass and plastic drink bottles, aluminium cans and take away containers such as plastic food containers and coffee cups.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council WA Chairman Michael Aspinall said recent audits conducted by KAB WA showed food and beverage containers by volume of litter on some roadsides were as high as 75 per cent.

'These are all items thrown from car windows – it's unnecessary and makes our roadsides look awful,' he said.

'There is also a significant impact on WA's wildlife, which is why the program emblem is a Western Australian woylie. Keep Australia Beautiful WA hopes that travellers will think twice about carelessly discarding their unwanted items and put them in one of the many roadside bins instead.'

Main Roads Road Network manager for the Central and Northern Regions, Jeff Anderson, said Main Roads spends up to \$6 million a year on removing over 8000 tonnes of roadside litter and rubbish.

'Working together with Keep Australia Beautiful WA to encourage wider community participation in preventing and cleaning up roadside litter helps keep debris off our roads, and make journeys safer and more efficient' he said.

'People should use the free bags and put their rubbish in the bins, and not overload bins in rest areas because wildlife can get into the bags and spread litter everywhere.'

Motorists can be fined \$200 for general littering and \$500 for littering that creates a public risk such as a lit cigarette butt or broken glass.

The car litter bags are reusable and there are links on the back to learn more about Western Australian wildlife, how to become a Litter Reporter and the Bin it to Win it quiz to test your litter knowledge. All entrants have the chance to win an iPad mini.

Go to www.kabc.wa.gov.au to find out where you can pick up a free car litter bag.

- **54 per cent of roadside litter, as measured recently by 2015-16 National Litter Index, is made up of beverage containers and take food wrappers and cups**
- **MRWA spends \$6 million a year collecting over 8000 tons of Roadside Litter and Debris (2015 stats)**
- **Keep Australia Beautiful WA has distributed more than 200,000 bags as part of this project**

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