

Proposal – Local Government Litter Index (LGLI)

Purpose

To provide Local Government Areas (LGA's) with the opportunity to acquire comprehensive litter data for their respective councils through engaging Keep Australia Beautiful (KAB) to deliver a Local Government Litter Index (LGLI) based on the methodology of the KAB National Litter Index (NLI).

Historical Background

The KAB NLI was developed in 2005 as a common means of measuring litter trends across Australia both by number of items and by volume. The data has traditionally only been reported back to State Governments and audit site details have never been revealed to protect the integrity of the state reports. Historically the audits have been conducted across approximately 900+ sites nationwide, twice per year around May and November to cater for seasonal variations.

KAB has now re-designed the NLI specifically for LGA's and have added new features to provide detailed litter data that will enable them to make more informed decisions for their communities.

Objectives

The LGLI can be used by LGA's to:

- develop strategies and policies around litter.
- analyse the effects of infrastructure placement.
- develop site or area specific budgets and plans
- measure the impact of local education campaigns.
- engage with local businesses to offer ideas and resources around waste reform.
- engage, educate and inform residents to reduce litter and waste.
- create long-lasting behavioural change.

Proposal

In providing this service to LGA's, KAB is offering:

1. Audit and litter collection of 16 co-selected sites within the LGA, twice per year.
2. Reliable and accurate litter data - collected by industry leaders McGregor Tan Research.
3. Clear results from each litter count in a dashboard format that can be accessed using Tableau, with a Tableau license issued to each Council. This will allow analysis and visualisation of data.
4. A written annual report
5. A walkthrough session of the annual results (if required)
6. Benchmarking and comparison against other LGA's if required and agreed by other LGA's

Benefits

- 1. Site selection:**
 - a. Each LGA will have the opportunity to collaborate in selecting their sites for data collection (these would need to meet the pre-established site criteria).
- 2. Data Ownership:**
 - a. Once data is presented to the LGA, this data is then exclusively owned by the LGA. LGA's can share information and results with other LGAs if they desire.
- 3. Litter collection:**
 - a. The litter will be counted and collected by fully experienced and trained staff and then disposed of at the conclusion of the audit, effectively providing 32 clean ups per annum. KAB has more than 85 individual categories of litter in its methodology that will be reported against.
- 4. Illegal dumping:**
 - a. data collectors will report any incidents of illegal dumping to the LGA directly (subject to establishing this process with the LGA).
- 5. Site infrastructure:**
 - a. site infrastructure will be recorded during the data collection process (e.g. number and types of bins, litter signage and graffiti). If additional infrastructure needs to be recorded, this can be arranged.
- 6. Seasonal data:**
 - a. data is collected twice per year to provide seasonal data to compare litter patterns in winter and summer.
- 7. Waterways:**
 - a. recreational waterways (e.g. beaches, creeks, rivers etc.) are included in the sites where data is collected, however this is only counted beside these waterways and litter would not be retrieved from the water.
- 8. Product Stewardship:**
 - a. If a brand is identifiable on any litter items collected, this will be recorded with the data. This critical information can be used to encourage product stewardship and to liaise with responsible stakeholders directly.

Considerations

- Litter items that are less than 1cm squared would not be included in the data collection.
 - Separate projects to record microplastics can be established in collaboration with KAB NSW at an additional cost.
- Collecting litter data in and under water would need to be established as a separate project and at an additional cost.
- KAB reserves the right to use LGLI data in an amalgamated form only for its own purposes.

Costs

Initial setup costs:

LGA's wishing to participate would be required to select 16 unique data collections sites in collaboration with KAB. There would be an initial one-off set-up and scoping cost

Note: LGA's that have site locations that have previously been used in the NLI audits will receive a discount off set up and scoping costs. Historical trend data for these sites could potentially be made available.

An annual all-inclusive cost will be calculated based on location and individual council requirements, but the package is expected to be less than \$17,000 per annum.

**** KAB is seeking a minimum 3 year commitment from LGA's to be able to provide accurate trend and benchmarking data.**

Resources

Below are the proposed 16 site types for the LGL, however these are negotiable based on the needs of each LGA.

LGLI Product	
Site Type	Number of Sites
Beach	1
Highway	1
Main road	2
Small street	3
Shopping centre car park	2
Shopping strip	3
Park/ playground	3
Transport Hub	1
Total	16