

Workshop: Cleaning up our beaches – facing the challenge with an increasing population

**Tuesday, 18th September
4.25pm – 4.55pm
Supper Room, Anglican Church**

Facilitator: Stuart Ackerman, Program Manager, Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland

Background

The Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland Clean Beach Challenge started in 1998 and is now in its tenth year. Over the past ten years, beaches along the Queensland coastline have entered the competition with the chance to be awarded recognition for their efforts to improve triple bottom line management of local beaches. Currently, nine awards in the program are delivered across six regions, on a State and National level, including:

- Cleanest Beach
- Tourism Queensland Friendliest Beach
- Do The Right Thing Litter Prevention, Supported by the Packaging Stewardship Forum
- Three Plus Partnerships
- Surf Life Saving Queensland Young Legends
- Resource Management
- Environmental Protection
- Community Action
- Individual Outstanding Accomplishment

As Queensland continues to grow in population, increasing pressure will be placed on our coastal environments to support the livelihoods and lifestyles of the population and therefore, the importance of effective management of our coastal beaches can not be understated.

One issue of concern is the management of litter, presenting environmental, social and economic implications. Understanding litter types and the level of their accumulation on beach environments is imperative so that responses to address litter issues are effective.

Litter management is often undertaken by members of the public, local governments, business and community organisations, and while partnerships are common among these groups, it is also true that many parties involved in litter management are working autonomously. Information on litter types and sources is not always well communicated between the groups. Thus much of the information on beach litter is not able to be integrated into management planning and development activities for coastal zones.

Promoting involvement of all sectors and their role in litter management is also important to successful litter prevention and the monitoring of their efforts will allow innovative approaches to beach litter management to be implemented in the future.

Discussion

Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland will present on the Clean Beach Challenge program and will review the most recent statistics about beach litter identified in the Keep Australia Beautiful National Litter Index. The following questions will then be posed:

1. Is there a need for a coordinated approach to litter reporting on Queensland's coastal beaches to allow a consistent assessment of beach litter issues?
2. If yes, how should this approach be delivered? i.e. what format is viable to allow the best data to be gathered in the easiest possible manner.
3. Should criteria be used to differentiate beach profiles? Eg usage profiles, environmental conditions and time frames to find commonalities among beaches and their litter issues to allow successful approaches, used in similar beaches, to be delivered elsewhere. If Yes, what criteria would be useful?
4. Who are the stakeholders most likely to be involved in beach litter monitoring and what approaches are required to engage them in litter and environmental management for beaches?

Workshop Title	Cleaning up our beaches – facing the challenge with an increasing population	
Chair/ Facilitator	Stuart Ackerman, Keep Australia Beautiful Queensland	
Scribe	Cheryl List	
Participants <i>(please put in contact details if you wish to be included in future mailing lists for this topic)</i>	Name	E-mail
	Jenna Hill	jenna.hill@bmrq.org.au
	Robert Preston	robert.preston@bigpond.com
	Lisa Emmert	lisa.keldsman@aapt.net.au
	Liz Tanner	wcmep@burnett.qld.gov.au
	Maree Prior	mareeprior@gmail.com
What was discussed <i>(please list the main dot points such as identified issues or threats)</i>	<p>Handout – factsheet on Clean Beach Challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q- is there a need for a litter awareness campaign • Better management – management programs • Community engagement • Local community litter pickup and litter monitoring – little recording of this data • Value in this data • Current beaches don't represent urban influences • Link back to packaging companies • Q – how do you best get community to report back on it? How do you rate different beaches – links between a particular 'style' of beach and type of litter? Eg a beach with high tourism Vs beach with stormwater outlet – different litter problems and litter management needs • Q – mud flat/mangrove areas – increasing rubbish, decreasing water quality • Look at user pays for dumping rubbish • Identify sources of litter – what, where, when • Q – how is the area defined • Consider weather and rain events • Doing proformas – school students involved. More active community through Clean Beach Challenge – can lobby for money and support. • Benefits from being involved in these campaigns to identify and education visitors • Neighbourhood/beach litter counts – interactive website? • On proformas need to have a section for description of area monitored – broad categories • Envisaged management actions need to be fed into management strategies for beaches – enforcement for packaging companies, place responsibility back on the manufacturers. • People don't value the natural beach, they want 'man altered' beaches 	

Suggested follow-up actions	Action	Who will undertake this action?
1.	Comment and provide suggestions via website for Keep Australia Beautiful	Workshop participants
2.	Look at neighbourhood litter count sheet for edits to include coastal recreation areas	KAB
3.	Ways to identify different beaches – access; roads; stormwater; recreational uses	
4.	How to deliver the information into the form – defined zone along the dune, timescales	KAB
5.	Training package for consistency	KAB
6.	Use of information for capacity/awareness/management plans	