Minister for Lands, Planning and the Environment, Peter Chandler, today urged all Territorians to “pick up a piece of rubbish every day”.

He issued the challenge on behalf of the Tidy Towns program when he launched the 2013 program at Parliament with the patron, Her Honour the Honourable Sally Thomas, Administrator of the Northern Territory.

“We have a chance to do something simple and achieve a lot, imagine how squeaky clean our surroundings will be.

“We can aspire to be known as the Tidy Territory,” he said.

“If we are tidy on the land, we stop rubbish washing into our waterways and marine environments.

“I also encourage everyone to get involved in the official Tidy Towns competition. It is a community model that has had tremendous success.

“The program inspires towns and communities to get involved over the whole year. The benefits are both environmental and social.

“A key offshoot of the Tidy Towns competition is that it builds people’s pride in their community.”

Chief Executive of the Keep Australia Beautiful Council for the NT, Heimo Schober, said picking up a piece of rubbish each day was a small task that was good “soul food”.

“It makes us feel good and will take the Territory’s rating on the National Litter Index way up towards the top.”

The Tidy Towns competition is part of a national awards program and includes anti-litter action, environmental and beautification programs.

Communities and groups interested in taking part can lodge nominations with the KABC (NT) until the end of September. The winners are announced in October.

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