

Section 1

#1: Opening Paragraph "Bondi Beach, once a thriving beach attracting billions of tourists per year, is now one of the most polluted waterways in the city — but with community action, it doesn't have to stay that way."

Strengths:

- Your opening sentence grabs attention by showing contrast between Bondi's past and present
- You include a specific, recent example (the tar-ball incident) that makes your argument feel current and relevant

Unclear Purpose and Direction → Your opening paragraph jumps between several ideas without clearly stating what you're asking the Mayor to do. You mention the tar-ball incident, explain it was "cooking oil, not poop," then say "We Australians cleaned almost the whole place up" and beaches reopened. This creates confusion because if the beaches are already cleaned and reopened, why do we need a clean-up day? Your final sentence "Let me explain why we must support a clean-up day at Bondi Beach" arrives too late and doesn't connect clearly to the tar-ball story you just told. The reader is left wondering: Is this about a one-time problem that's already fixed, or an ongoing pollution issue?

Exemplar: *After briefly mentioning the tar-ball incident as one example of pollution, you could write: "While we successfully cleaned up after that incident, Bondi Beach faces ongoing pollution from everyday rubbish and waste. This is why I am writing to propose a regular community clean-up day at Bondi Beach."*

#2: Second Body Paragraph "To add on, the beaches is the most known in the whole of Australia, with thousands of visitors and tourists per day. Imagine everyone littering around one hundred grams each!"

Strengths:

- You make a personal connection by asking the reader to imagine scenarios, which helps them visualise the problem

- You recognise the impact of pollution on wildlife, particularly seagulls mistaking plastic for food

Vague Claims Without Supporting Details → Your paragraph relies heavily on imagination rather than facts or examples. Phrases like "Imagine everyone littering around one hundred grams each!" and "Imagine what the beach will be like after everyone leaves during sunset" ask the reader to picture something, but don't give them real information about how much rubbish actually accumulates or what the beach looks like. Your statement "once a week is beneficial" appears suddenly without explaining why weekly is better than monthly or fortnightly. The paragraph also contains several grammar issues ("the beaches is," "seagulls tend to mistaken") that make your ideas harder to follow.

Exemplar: *"During peak summer days, Bondi Beach welcomes over 40,000 visitors. Even if each person accidentally drops just a small amount of rubbish, this adds up to significant pollution. Marine birds, such as seagulls, often mistake plastic wrappers and bottle caps for food, which can cause serious health problems or even death."*

#3: Third Body Paragraph "Last, but not least, without cleaning up, the beach can be hazardous for people too!"

Strengths:

- You identify an important perspective by showing how beach pollution affects humans directly, not just animals
- You explain a logical connection: rubbish → fish eat it → humans eat fish → humans consume plastic

Weak Development of Key Argument → Your paragraph introduces the important idea that pollution harms people, but you only give two brief examples (broken glass hurting feet and microplastics in fish) without developing them fully. The broken glass example is mentioned in just one sentence with no detail about how common this problem is or how serious injuries could be. Your microplastics explanation follows a logical chain but lacks information about the actual health effects of eating microplastics. The phrase "You probably won't believe me, but yes" sounds unsure and weakens your authority as a writer. Additionally, your conclusion "just to secure our safety and benefit us and the environment" is quite general and doesn't specifically connect back to your clean-up day proposal.

Exemplar: *"Beach pollution also poses direct risks to human health. Sharp objects hidden in the sand, such as broken glass or metal fragments, can cause serious cuts that may require medical treatment. Furthermore, when marine animals consume plastic rubbish, those plastics enter the food chain. Scientists have found microplastics in fish caught near Sydney's beaches, which means people eating this seafood may also be consuming harmful plastic particles."*

■ Your piece addresses an important environmental issue and shows you care about protecting Bondi Beach for both wildlife and people. Your strongest moments come when you include specific details, like the 60% statistic about plastics in Australian waterways and the connection between land-based sources and ocean pollution. However, your argument would be much more convincing if you organised your ideas more carefully. Currently, your paragraphs jump between different thoughts (statistics, then imagination, then urgent calls to action) which makes it hard for the reader to follow your main point. Additionally, you need to explain your proposal more clearly—you mention "a clean-up day" but don't tell the Mayor what exactly you want: Who would organise it? When would it happen? How would people participate? Your letter would be stronger if you focused each paragraph on one main idea and developed it fully with evidence and examples. For instance, your second paragraph could focus entirely on tourism and visitor impact with specific numbers, whilst your third paragraph could thoroughly explain health risks with medical evidence. Also, consider the order of your arguments—you might want to start with the most serious issue rather than saving it for last. By structuring your ideas more deliberately and supporting each point with solid evidence, you'll create a much more persuasive letter that clearly shows the Mayor why and how a clean-up day should be implemented.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2

#1 Dear Respected Mayor Clover Moore,

Bondi Beach, once a thriving beach attracting billions of tourists per year, is now one of the most polluted waterways in the city — but with community action, it doesn't have to stay that way. ~~Remember the tar-ball incident that started in October last year ended back in January this year?~~ [Remember the tar-ball incident that started in October last year and ended back in January this year?] The sphere-shaped debris was first found at Coogee and Bondi ~~beaches~~ [Beaches] in October and was later determined to be a mixture of human waste – cooking oil, not poop! We Australians cleaned almost the whole place up. Well, the beaches – almost every single one of them, [—] reopened. ~~Let me explain why we must support a clean-up day at Bondi Beach.~~ [I am writing to propose that we establish a regular clean-up day at Bondi Beach, and I would like to explain why this initiative is essential.]

#2 To ~~initiate~~ [begin], although Bondi appears pristine on the surface, it is ~~harshly~~ [severely] harmed by waste. Studies show that up to 80% of ocean litter actually ~~originates~~ [originates] from land-based sources, including rivers like the well known [well-known] Parramatta River. This waterway ~~usually~~ [frequently] carries plastic waste, microplastics, [and] dangerous chemical runoff into our oceans ~~such as cooking oil~~, [,] where it harms marine life and disrupts delicate ecosystems. In 2020 ~~only~~ [alone], Clean Up Australia reported that plastics made up over 60% of all rubbish found in Australian waterways and beaches, which is a significant disaster ~~we should learn from~~ [that demands our attention]. If we don't act to help end this problem, this horrifying, disastrous pollution will continue to wash up on our shores and will damage our marine life ~~without us knowing~~ [undetected]. That would be ~~certainly~~ [undoubtedly] horrible, ~~won't~~ [wouldn't] it?

#3 To add on, ~~the beaches is~~ [Bondi Beach is] the most ~~known~~ [famous] in the whole of Australia, with thousands of visitors and tourists per day. Imagine everyone littering around one hundred grams each! And people that come back after one visit! Imagine what the beach will be like after everyone leaves during sunset. Imagine what the beach looks like after being polluted ~~or not being polluted at all~~ [!] Animals such as seagulls tend to ~~mistaken~~ [mistake] these plastics for foods ~~such as chips~~, [,] and of course they end up with plastics and microplastics in their ~~stomach~~ [stomachs], which is dangerous for these animals and even possibly fatal! To save these animals, a ~~clean-up~~ [clean-up] is vital, so we MUST have a ~~clean-up day, not annually, but once a week~~ is beneficial, [,] or animals will swallow every piece of rubbish before we even arrive to clean up if the clean-up happens annually.

Last, but not least, without cleaning up, the beach can be hazardous for people too! You probably won't believe me, but yes, it can even be dangerous for us! Broken glass and sharp objects that are littered can hurt our feet if we step on them. Now, if we throw all rubbish in the ocean, fish will eat ~~them~~ [it]. When they are caught, we eat the fish, not knowing plastics and microplastics are in the body and that we are eating plastics and microplastics! This is why we MUST have clean-ups, just to secure our safety and benefit us and the environment we live in.

In conclusion, we must have ~~clean-ups~~ [clean-ups], ~~respected~~ [Respected] Clover Moore. We must have them to benefit the environment and to ~~ensure and justify~~ [ensure] the safety of us and everyone around us.

Kind regards,

Jeremy