

THE NIMBIN GOOD TIMES

Flexible and FREE

Native
Gardenia
Edition
December
2018

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Educate yourself about the new recycling rules

#RecycleRight Keep it coming 'round.

Yellow recycling bin

- Aerosol cans (empty)
- Aluminum cans
- Aluminum foil (clean)
- Books
- Cardboard (clean)
- CD covers/cases
- Crockery and ceramics
- Drinking glasses
- Envelopes (including window)
- Plastic purses
- Glass jars and bottles
- Glass plates
- Junk mail (paper)
- Magazines
- Medicine bottles
- Milk and juice boxes
- Mirror glass
- Newspapers
- Office paper
- Paint tins (empty)
- 4L size max
- Paper
- Plastic containers and bottles (all hard plastic)
- Plastic plant pots
- Tyres
- Resource Recovery Collection Satchels
- Steel tins and cans
- Telephone books
- Wrapping paper

Red landfill bin

- Appliances
- Baking paper
- Biscuit and cake trays
- Bread tags
- Broken toys
- Bubble wrap
- Cables and rope
- Cassette tapes
- Carpet/tiles
- Cigarette butts
- Chip packets
- Cling wrap
- Clothing
- Coffee cups and lids (takeaway)
- Coffee pods
- Cutlery (steel or plastic)
- Disposable nappies
- Fabric (sheets, towels etc)
- Food powders
- Hose and pipe
- Kitty litter
- Laminated paper
- Lids (bottles, beer bottles and small containers)
- Lighters
- Matchboxes
- Meat trays (oil)
- Mesh and netting
- Penic and pencils
- PIU packaging
- Plastic bags
- Plastic cups, plates and cutlery
- Polystyrene
- Rubber bands
- Soft plastics (plastic bags and soft packaging)
- Shoes
- Straws (plastic)
- String and twine
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste tubes
- Treated timber (small off-cuts)
- Food powders
- Vacuum cleaner dust
- Videos tapes
- Wallpaper
- Waxed paper and cardboard
- Wine cask liners
- Woolscreen glass
- Wipes (all kinds)

Resource Recovery Collection Satchels
Pick up free from Council offices or libraries

- Batteries (household)
- CDs and DVDs
- Corks
- Electrical cords
- Mobile phones
- Prescription glasses
- Printer cartridges
- Small e-waste e.g. calculators and handheld games
- Smoke detectors
- X-rays

Items in good condition such as clothes, toys and shoes can be taken to the Lismore Recycling & Recovery Centre for reuse.

A large fridge magnet is available that has all the info.

Residents are asked to follow these six key Recycle Right routines when using their yellow recycling bin:

- 1. Keep it simple** – only recycle hard plastic bottles and containers, glass bottles and jars, steel and aluminium cans, paper and cardboard. To remind you what goes where, get a magnet for your fridge – free from your local Council office or library.
- 2. Keep out soft plastics** – including ALL plastic bags, even if they have a recycling symbol, are degradable or compostable, and other soft plastics such as plastic film, chip packets, bread bags and biscuit trays. Australian manufacturer Replas does recycle soft plastics and you can drop them at the Redcycle collection points at most major supermarkets.
- 3. Keep out small items** – anything smaller than a credit card is unable to be sorted – it falls through gaps in the recycling machinery and can contaminate recyclables. All lids must now be removed from bottles and placed in the red lid bin.
- 4. Keep it safe** – no strapping, hose, netting, wires, building materials, broken glass, chemicals and other hazardous materials that can harm the MRF workers or damage the machines.
- 5. Keep it clean** – keeping recyclables clean is our most important goal. So you need to rinse out food and drink before placing containers in the recycling bin. Put dirty cardboard like pizza, noodle or cake boxes into your organics bin.
- 6. Keep it loose** – put each item into your yellow lid bin separately, don't bag, box or contain your recyclable items.

More info on pages 10 and 17



Lismore MRF workers Michael McKee, Rose Reavell and Greg Giggins

Major changes to recycling

A new #RecycleRight campaign aims to explain changes we all need to make to our recycling habits across the Northern Rivers.

The reality is that not every item with a recycling symbol can be recycled locally. Food, drink or other containers are imported and exported around the world and there is not one global recycling symbol.

For a long time, China was the largest importer of the world's recycling, accepting over 30 million tonnes every year, and ultimately having the capability to drive recycling prices and practices worldwide.

Until a few years ago, China accepted recyclables with a contamination level (incorrect items mixed in with the material to be recycled) of around 5%.

This meant China accepted a large proportion of the world's waste, which was then their problem to deal with.

China's new National Sword Policy now enforces a strict contamination limit of 0.5%, which has sent the global recycling industry reeling with much of the world's recycling no longer meeting

this new export standard.

"It's important to remember our recycling is a product that forms part of a continuous cycle," North-East Waste Co-ordinator Jeanie McKillop said.

"Unlike landfill, a closed system where items are buried in the ground and lost forever, recycling keeps coming around.

"Where our recycling goes is dependent on market needs – the existence and profitability of companies who use recycled content to manufacture new items. The recycling industry is ever-changing and therefore what we can put into our yellow bins changes accordingly.

"This can make things confusing, however it's up to each of us to refine our recycling practices even further and ensure it stays in the system," she said.

In addition to refining our recycling practices, as a community we need to provide greater support towards buying items manufactured from recycled materials and choosing to purchase items with either no packaging or packaging that can be recycled.

This is where the term 'circular economy' comes into play.

Rather than making an item, using it and disposing of it in landfill, a circular economy keeps items in continuous use by supporting long-lasting designs, maintenance and repair, reuse, remanufacturing, refurbishing, recycling and up-cycling.

There are some positives coming from these changes to our recycling industry that benefit our local industry and environment by providing a catalyst for change. This forces us to recycle better, develop new technologies to better sort our recycling and develop new industry within Australia that supports the processing and manufacture of goods using recycled content.

The long-term goal is a larger reduction in material sent to landfill, less mining of primary resources and ultimately less environmental pollution. If we all participate, we can keep our resources coming 'round and get the most life out of every product.

To find out more about Recycle Right visit: www.northernriverswaste.com.au

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