



RECYCLE

Why waste it? When you can still recycle it.

You may have seen in the media recently stories concerning the China Sword and the impact it is having on the global recycling market.

With some of the reports misleading, it is important to know that recycling is still economically and environmentally beneficial to undertake.

The recycling we collect from our Member Councils (including yours) is processed under contract by SKM Recycling. Despite the challenges in the recycling market at present, SKM have advised us that they still have access to markets for the recycling products, albeit at reduced commodity prices, particularly if contaminated. Given their operating costs aren't being off-set to the same extent through the sale of the material (cardboard for instance is currently only worth around 20% of what it was selling for in September 2017) in order to continue processing and selling to viable markets they need to increase gate fees. **Again even with this increase recycling is economically and environmentally beneficial.**

Recycling is not optional, it is a vital part of our continued existence on a planet with an increasing population and finite resources. East Waste supports the Waste Management Association Australia's view that 'this is not up for debate.' Recycling resources to ensure that they are at their highest and best use for as long as possible, is essential to ensure Australia's long-term sustainability and reduce the use of virgin materials.

As a resident we **thank you for recycling**. You play a very important role by placing the right materials in the right bin and keeping contamination items (items that can't be recycled) out. We ask that you **continue to recycle** the materials listed below through your yellow-lidded recycling bin and ensure that you keep contaminants out. In doing so, you will be playing your part to improve the quality of recycled material. It is also very important that we refocus our efforts in avoiding, reducing, and reusing waste in the first place, to lessen our reliance on recycling.

Recyclable materials include:

- ✓ Paper and cardboard
- ✓ Plastic (rigid)
- ✓ Glass
- ✓ Aluminium
- ✓ Steel/tin

Contaminants (things that DON'T belong in the recycling bin) include:

- ✗ Plastic bags/recycling in bags
- ✗ Food
- ✗ Liquids
- ✗ Clothing/ fabric
- ✗ Polystyrene/foam
- ✗ Shredded paper
- ✗ Electronic waste
- ✗ Nappies
- ✗ Garden (organic) material
- ✗ General waste
- ✗ Bricks and building materials
- ✗ Wire, strapping and hoses

If recycling materials are too contaminated it may be too difficult to sort and end up being wasted in landfill. The cost for doing so is ultimately passed onto residents through their rates.

East Waste will continue to work closely with Councils, SKM Recycling, Industry and Government to ensure that recycling continues as an essential service, and assist in working toward new models that provide more sustainable long-term outcomes.

EastWaste