

# Facts about Council's plastic recycling trial

## Australia is facing a recycling crisis.

To combat this, Bundaberg Regional Council is taking part in a Waste Recycling Industry of Queensland trial to lead the way in best practice recycling. As part of the trial, residents are being asked to no longer place soft plastics and food packaging in their yellow-lidded wheelie bin, instead focusing their recycling efforts in the plastic category on bottles and jars. Understandably, the introduction of this trial has raised lots of questions in the community.

Here's a few quick facts about the trial that will help to dispel some of the myths.



### *Myth #1* Council has made changes to recycling to cut costs

Council does not pay for recycling sorting costs. In fact, all of the region's recycling is sorted by hand by Impact Community Services staff as part of an Australian Disability Enterprise. Council is committed to this partnership and the opportunity it creates for local disability employment.

### *Myth #2* These items can't be recycled because Council doesn't have the appropriate facilities

The lack of an available market for these materials is an issue being faced by the entire country. Previously these materials had been sold overseas where they were turned in to new products and on sold, however international policy changes now prevent this. There is currently no market in Australia to purchase these materials.

### *Myth #3* This trial will mean there's hardly anything being recycled

A recent audit of 100 recycling bins revealed soft plastics and food packaging made up a mere 1.5% of the weight of the bins. Of the genuine recyclable materials in the bins, items such as plastic bottles and jars, cardboard and paper, glass and aluminium and steel cans made up the remaining 98.5%.

### *Myth #4* Council should be working harder to fix the problem

While Council is doing everything within its power to reduce the amount of recyclable materials going to landfill, tackling this issue requires a whole of community response. Residents should be mindful of how much of this material they are consuming and send a message to retailers that receiving products in this packaging is not desirable. At a state and national level, governments are looking to find a solution whether that be through a stewardship scheme or the introduction of a processing industry in Australia.



### *Myth #5*

**If Council is accepting less recyclable materials that should result in a reduction in wheelie bin charges**

In waste management, the biggest cost to Council comes from placing rubbish in landfill. To continue to meet the high environmental standards we are currently achieving, millions of dollars is invested in landfill "cells" that contain a synthetic lining and intricate drainage process which ensures the environmental integrity of the cell and enables liquid waste generated from refuse to be channelled to a leachate pond. Each cell has a limited life span.

*Yes* These items can be recycled



Peanut butter jars



Milk drink bottles



Laundry detergent bottles



Cordial bottles



Dish detergent bottles



Soft drink bottles



Water bottles



Milk bottles



Juice bottles



Toilet cleaner bottles



Cleaning spray bottles



Honey bottles



Wet-wipe bottles



Sports drink bottles



Medicine bottles

Don't forget to rinse and remove lids before recycling

*Yes* REDcycle



Plastic bags



Chip and lolly packets

[redcycle.net.au](http://redcycle.net.au)  
to find local locations and a detailed list

*No* do not recycle



Biscuit trays



Punnets



Meat trays



Takeaway containers