

CHINA RESTRICTIONS ON RECYCLING

WHAT IS IT?

Until recently, China was the world's largest importer of recyclable materials.

Annually, it accepted more than **30 million tonnes of waste** from other countries. This included around **1.25 million tonnes from Australia** in 2016-17.

At the beginning of 2018, China implemented its 'National Sword' policy enforcing restrictions on the importation of recycled materials.

ARE MY RECYCLABLES STILL GETTING RECYCLED?

Yes!

Annually NAWMA receives and processes **30,000 tonnes** of kerbside-collected recyclables through its Material Recovery Facility (MRF) located in Edinburgh, South Australia. NAWMA employs 19 staff from the local area to work in the MRF to sort residents' yellow top recycling bins.

All recyclable materials that NAWMA processes are recycled either within Australia or in global markets (eg India, Malaysia, Thailand).

- Glass, steel, aluminium and any plastics that attract the 10c deposit are processed in South Australia.
- Other plastics are processed interstate or internationally.
- Mixed paper and cardboard is currently sent to global markets, but will soon be turned back into newspapers in Australia (from September 2018).

WILL COUNCIL RATES INCREASE?

No.

Early indicators to the implementation of the China Sword ban resulted in key NAWMA staff visiting new markets capable of taking and processing our recyclables in South East Asia and around Australia.

These visits were to examine new partnerships in secondary markets and to foster collaboration and opportunities.

Due to the proactive measures and investigations undertaken by NAWMA, new markets have already been established significantly reducing the impact of the China Sword policy.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Given the increasing restrictions on the quality of recyclable materials being accepted, you play an important role in placing the right materials in the yellow-top recycling bin.

Yes

- ✓ Glass bottles and jars
- ✓ Rigid plastic containers
- ✓ Steel and aluminium cans
- ✓ Milk and juice cartons
- ✓ Paper and cardboard

No

- ✗ Clothing (this can go to your local charity store)
- ✗ Plastic bags (these can be recycled at REDcycle collection points in participating supermarkets)
- ✗ Electronic waste (take these to your local Resource Recovery Centre in Edinburgh North or Pooraka)
- ✗ Food (this can go in your green bin if you have one, or red-top waste bin if you don't)
- ✗ Garden waste (this can go in your green bin if you have one)
- ✗ Nappies

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS IN NAWMA COUNCIL AREAS



- ✓ Recycling responsibly will assist in **establishing new local industries that use secondary raw materials**
- ✓ Recycling responsibly **will create local jobs**
- ✓ Recycling responsibly **will keep costs down**
- ✓ Recycling responsibly will assist in **developing green technologies and industries** better suited to a circular economy
- ✓ Recycling responsibly will **protect the one and only planet we have!**

 **NAWMA** For more information please call NAWMA on freecall 1800 111 044