

National Recycling Week Trivia Answer sheet

True or False?

Q1. It takes 100 litres of water to make one cotton shirt.

A1. False.

It takes 2,700 litres of water to make one cotton shirt. This figure includes processes like packing, manufacturing and dyeing.

Q2. This is a recycling symbol.

A2. False.

This is a plastic identification code, or PIC. The purpose of these symbols is to communicate the type of plastic that has been used to make the item.

Q3. Recycling and reuse rose between 2016 and 2024.

A3. True.

According to the latest Dept. of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, waste report, Australia's recycling and reuse rates rose during this period- HOWEVER, so did waste generation overall.

Q4. All glass can go in the household recycling bin.

A4. False.

Only glass bottles and jars used for storing food or drink can be recycled in the household recycling bin. Drinking glass, mirrors or broken glass must be disposed of in the general waste bin, as they are

Q5. You should tape the terminals of dead batteries before storing or disposing of them.

A5. True.

Even dead batteries have some residual charge. Taping the terminals helps prevent battery fires.

Multiple Choice

Q6. How long does it take polyester to decompose in landfill?

A6. B- 200 years.

It can take 20 to 200 years for polyester to decompose in landfill. Even then, it will never truly rot down but rather break up into tiny pieces.



Q7. Which materials found in printer cartridges can be recycled in a sustainable road base?

A7. B- printer toner.

Residual toner is used in TonerPave and TonerPlas asphalt for stronger roads.

Q8. On average, how much electronic equipment do Australians discard per year?

A8. A- 22 kg.

E-waste is a growing issue in Australia, with the average Australian discarding about 21.6 in 2022.

Q9. Approximately what percentage of waste generated per capita in 2023 was food organic waste?

A9. A- 30%.

If food waste was a country, it would be the third largest producer of greenhouse gases in the world.

Q10. How many tonnes of tyres reach their end of life in Australia each year?

A10. B. 540,000.

In 2024, Tyre Stewardship Australia reported that 225,000 tonnes of used tyres ended up in landfill or were stockpiled or were illegally dumped. That's a significant increase from 2018, when the figure was 143,000 tonnes.

Q9. Which recovered material makes up the bulk of Australia's exported recycling?

A9. A- Scrap metal.

Q10. Between 2016 and 2024, which sector saw the largest growth in recycling and waste recovery?

Q10. A- Construction and waste.

The recycling and reuse of materials growing by 39% during this period.

Q11. Approximately how many battery-related fires occur in Australian waste and recycling streams each year?

Q11. C- 11,000

The Australian Council of Recycling estimates there are between 10,000 and 12,000 battery related fires a year across waste and recycling streams in Australia, costing over \$400,000.



Q12. 33% of Australians report not doing this simple action to ensure they are recycling correctly?

A12. A- checking recycling labels.

The ARL (Australasian Recycling label) is the only evidence backed recycling label found on pack. Emptying and rinsing recycling, is still an important step!

Q13. Which decade saw the start of the fast fashion trends?

A13. C- 1990s

During the 1990s, clothing brand's wanted clothes to be designed and in stores in only two weeks and dressing for trends also became popular. Online shopping started in this decade as well.

Open Answer

Q14. How many kilograms of waste do Australians produce per year per capita?

A14. In 2020/21, Australia generated an estimated 75.8 million tonnes (Mt) of waste, equivalent to **2.95 tonnes per person**.

Q15. What percentage of Australians are unsure of how to dispose of household batteries?

A15. 39% of Australians are unsure how to correctly dispose of batteries. 79% are unaware that taping battery terminals is a crucial safety measure.

Q16. In the first year of running a container deposit scheme, how many containers were diverted from landfill in Victoria?

A16. One billion containers returned through Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme in one year. putting \$100 million back in their pocket.

Q17. What percentage of Australians incorrectly dispose of coffee cups in recycling bins?

A17. Approximately 50-60% of Australians incorrectly dispose of coffee cups in recycling bins

Q18. In 2023, how many kilograms of textile waste did Australians produce per capita?

Australians produce approximately 23kgs of clothing/ textile waste each per year!
Australians are also the highest consumers of textiles per capita in the world.

