

WASTE-FREE BYRON HIGH



What is resource depletion?

Resource depletion refers to the mass consumption of natural resources that has been taking place since the beginning of the industrial revolution over 3 centuries ago. The demand for these natural resources continues to increase as populations grow in spite of the increasing concern and knowledge surrounding our rapidly changing environment. Statistics have shown that we, as a nation, are producing over 660 tons of plastic waste each year, a figure that continues to increase to meet the demands of our growing population. 40% of this astronomical figure is a result of single use plastics, things like the chip packaging and tin foil included in our everyday lunches.



Students want change

In a world where environmental issues are extremely prevalent in society, students at Byron High have become concerned with our school's carbon footprint. Through Geography and various Science classes, students have become educated about effects of resource depletion and the importance of sustainability and renewability. We understand the need for change in order to make our environment a place that we can all enjoy in future years, and we understand that this change begins with us. By implementing small, but impactful changes in our local community at Byron High, our students are taking part in a worldwide initiative to keep our planet clean and green.

Did You know?

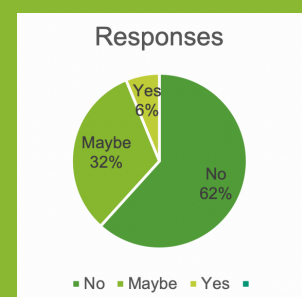
Every day approximately **8 million** pieces of plastic pollution find their way into our oceans. There may now be around **5.25 trillion** macro and microplastic pieces floating in the open ocean.



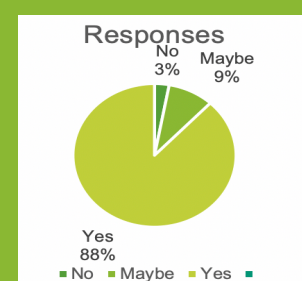
SURVEY RESULTS

The students and parents of Byron high participated in a survey about their views on Byron High's environmental initiatives. Here are some key results:

Do you believe Byron High School is doing enough to minimise its environmental impact? '
(209 responses)



Would you help support Byron Bay High school to implement a low waste policy?
(209 responses)



The Waste Free Policy

For 21 years as a school we were given the opportunity to learn and grow on the land of Arakwal people of the Bundjalung Nation. Often we take for granted what others are deprived of, the beach is our backyard yet so much is affected by the plastic which our school, community and country accumulate. So, in an attempt to preserve this beautiful land and combat the rapidly growing issues surrounding mass consumption, Byron Bay High is attempting to implement our very own low waste policy. For the Byron High community, our first step will be to **remove all waste bins from the school grounds to create a more clean and sustainable area**. This will be completed by the **21st of October**. Hopefully this will encourage students and parents to use waste free alternatives for school lunch packaging, and to recycle leftover packaging once at home. We will keep all composting bins for students and staff to place their decomposable waste including fruits, vegetables, meats and even citrus!



Waste free packaging ideas



Beeswax Wraps

Perfect for sandwiches, wraps, treats.



Glass snap ware

Ideal for sandwiches, leftovers or snacks



Cloth Napkins

Can be used to transport bread or apples



Silicone snap bags

Great for everything! (except liquids)

WASTE FREE CHALLENGE

| Day of the Week | Recess | Lunch | Snack |
|-----------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Monday | | | |
| Tuesday | | | |
| Wednesday | | | |
| Thursday | | | |
| Friday | | | |

Waste free Tips

- Avoid muesli bars etc that are packaged
- Sandwiches in square containers with a good fitting lid rarely fall apart!
- There are lots of nude food containers in the supermarket that come with great reusable containers!
- Fresh is best – fruit and vegetables make great lunchbox items and they don't usually need any packaging
- Buy supermarket items in bulk rather than small packets (saves money and packaging)
- Shop at Santos or the Source for bulk items where you can take your own bags, containers and bottles
- Using lunch boxes with compartments help to keep food separate and eliminate the need for packaging.
- Send water in refillable drink bottle
- Washable forks/ spoons (not plastic)
- Unpackaged food is generally better for you and cheaper!
- Doing away with glad wrap and foil is not only better for the environment but will save you money (Think of all our lovely sea turtles!)



What are the Benefits of composting?

For the past few years Byron high has made a significant attempt to reduce our overall environmental footprint through the introduction of a composting program and gardening team. There are numerous benefits to practicing composting properly, these include;

- **The production of specific bacteria and fungus.** These bacteria then encourage the breakdown of organic material, eventually forming a nutrient rich soil known as humus.
- **The reduction of land fill waste.** When choosing to compost you not only reduce your contribution to landfill waste but make use of the precious nutrients that form as a result of composting.
- **The introduction of nutrient rich organisms to your soil.** Composting also encourages the growth of valuable microorganisms in your garden/ soil. These microorganisms then speed up the composting process through the rapid breakdown of organic materials whilst also repelling numerous plant diseases.
- **The drastic decrease in your consumption of resources.** Composting also has a dramatic effect on your consumption of resources, allowing for the conservation of water, energy, fuel and money.
- **The reduction of odours associated with at home waste.** By separating the organic matter from the general waste bin in your home you can drastically improve the musky smell we often associate with gardens and at home waste.



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