



## Yarra's top 12 actions for a Waste Wise Home



Australia is the second most wasteful nation in the world, producing more than 18 million tonnes of waste per year (that's enough waste to cover the state of Victoria to a depth of 10cm).

- 1 Avoid plastic shopping bags.** Australians use 6.9 billion plastic shopping bags a year.
- 2 Recycle old mobile phones.** Phones contain toxic metals including arsenic, antimony, beryllium, cadmium, copper, lead, nickel, and zinc. Not only are some metals in mobile phones toxic, they do not breakdown.
- 3 Make your own compost/worm farm**  
Around 55% of the waste we currently throw away is compostable garden waste and food scrap which can be turned into great fertilizer for gardens.
- 4 Buy items in minimal packaging** or in bulk wherever you can
- 5 Buy items that will last** rather than things you can use once or twice and then have to throw away.
- 6 Buy items that have been made from recycled materials.** And always remember to buy locally produced items where you can to reduce the need for extra packaging and transport.
- 7 Repair before replacing.** This reduces the need to use more resources.
- 8 Recycle whatever you can** to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. By recycling one tonne of paper you save approximately: 13 trees, 31,780 Litres of water, 2.5 barrels of oil, 4,100 Kilowatt hours (KWH) of electricity and 4 m<sup>3</sup> of landfill space
- 9 Avoid disposable plates, cups and cutlery.** Hire or borrow for parties.
- 10 Avoid aluminium foil and cling wrap.** Use containers to keep food fresh.
- 11 Give to those who really need it.** Instead of throwing away your unwanted goods you could make a donation to a charity.
- 12 Dispose of Litter Correctly.** Place your litter in a bin or take it home and dispose of it correctly. Litter in streets and drains will resurface in waterways and beaches. Cigarette butts are also litter!