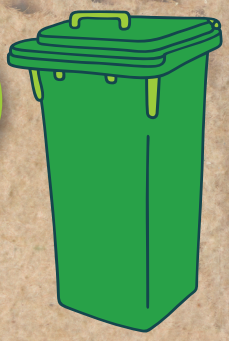
FACTSHEET #7

#RECYCLERIGHT

CARING FOR THE CATCHMENTS



Mareeba Shire takes in two main wetland systems, the Barron and Mitchell catchments.

The 165km Barron River starts at Mount Hypipamee National Park and is one of nine catchments in Wet Tropics Region; and the Mitchell River starts on the Atherton Tablelands and flows 560km Northwest to the Gulf of Carpentaria.
These river systems are culturally significant to the Shire's First Nations people, are critical for prosperity, particularly agriculture, tourism, and recreation.
How we, as a community, use water in our businesses, homes, gardens, and streets has a direct impact downstream.

PROTECTING THE CATCHMENTS BY

USEFUL TIPS TO REDUCE FOOD AND PACKAGING WASTE:

MINIMISING EROSION

- Maximise garden areas to absorb more water during heavy rainfall events.
- Keep the soil covered and mulch garden beds to reduce run off during the wet season
- Cover material stockpiles, such as soil, mulch, or sand.

REDUCING CHEMICAL WATER POLLUTION

Households can choose to:
- Switch from herbicide and pesticide chemicals to ecofriendly alternatives.
- Wash vehicles on a grassed area.
- Store and dispose of chemicals correctly.
- Capture run off from paint and cement.
- Landholders can find out more about reducing fertiliser run off from the Queensland Government or by working with local NRM groups.

CLEANING UP LITTER AND RESPONSIBLY DISPOSING OF WASTE

Litter washed down drains, pollutes local creeks and rivers systems, eventually impacting the Great Barrier Reef.

- Pick up litter, to prevent it from washing into stormwater drains.
- Dispose of weeds correctly, consider composting, placing in your general waste bin or take it to a transfer station.
- Mareeba Shire also holds regular free Green Waste Disposal days for domestic users.
- Report illegal dumping or littering to Council on 1300 308 461.

There are penalties for littering or dumping of waste find out more from the Department of Environment's Website.

There are many items that can be disposed of for free at the Mareeba Shire Transfer Station, including:

- Air conditioners and fridges - must be degassed.
- Car bodies - must have fluids and tyres removed.
- E-Waste (monitors, TV's, keyboards, hard drives).
- Scrap metal (including degassed gas bottles).
- Used lead acid batteries (car batteries).
- Waste oil (up to 20L.).
- Household batteries.

For more on recycling visit Council's website.

Mareeba Shire Council is involved in the Reef Guardian Council program.

Mareeba SHIRE COUNCIL

Before disposing of anything, have you considered ways to reuse, repair or donate unwanted items?
Visit msc.qld.gov.au/council/water-and-waste/recycling for further information.