

Title:	War on Waste
First Broadcast:	March 2019
Source:	ABC's 7.30 Report
Minutes:	6:08
Video & Script:	https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/war-on-waste/10927336
Summary:	There are calls for governments to find a long-term solution for Australia's recycling system crisis.

KEY WORDS

Below is a list of words which appear in the report - can you match the words with their correct definition? Use a dictionary to help you if you aren't sure.

a community, place, or situation regarded as reflecting the characteristics of something much larger	
accumulate, collect, gather	
almost entirely, effectively	
approve, accept, consent to	
begin again, continue	
decrease rapidly	
give approval of something, support	
openness, honesty	
situation, description of what could happen	
supervision	
very large, shocking, incredible	
when compared to others	

stockpile (v)
plummeting value (v)
likely scenario (n)
relatively high (adv)
endorse the position (v)
failure of oversight (n)
more transparency (n)
microcosm (n)
staggering numbers (adj)
validate waste (v)
virtually banned (adv)
resume (v)

SUMMARY

There are calls for governments to find a long-term solution for Australia's recycling system crisis.

FOCUS QUESTIONS

- What kind of waste can be recycled?
- Why is Australia experiencing a recycling crisis? Why is a lot of recyclable waste currently not being recycled? What changed?
- What happens to the waste if it isn't recycled?
- Susan Rennie, a local government mayor, says that "we are in a state of climate emergency and that we need urgent action on the environment and managing waste ..." Do you agree?
- What action should be taken when it comes to managing waste? Who should take that action?



LISTENING

First watch the report and answer the questions

- If recyclable waste is not recycled, what happens to it?
- When did Australia's recycling problems start?

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

After watching the report, try to answer the following questions

1. Until China stopped accepting Australian waste last year, how much of the country's recycling exports had it been taking?
2. Why does Tony Khoury, a waste and recycling expert, say Australia's recycling system was designed around the Chinese market?
3. According to Tony Khoury, China was taking a lot of recyclables from ...
A. just Victoria. B. mostly Australia. C. all around the world.
4. Why was one of Victoria's biggest waste processing companies banned from accepting recyclables and which forced many councils to send their residents' curb side recycling to landfill?
There were fears that stockpiled materials could ...
5. Besides governments, who does Abigail Forsyth, the co-founder of a reusable coffee cup manufacturer, say also has to share some blame for the mess?
6. What is one example of stronger action that Abigail Forsyth says governments need to take?

CLOZE

Use the words to complete the sentences

The form of the word may need to be changed

stockpile	plummet	scenario	relatively
endorse	oversight	transparency	microcosm
staggering	validate	virtually	resume

1. A new study showed that a number of people across the world die in traffic accidents each year. In China alone the estimate is 275 thousand.
2. During the country's economic crisis, every resident suffered some degree of economic hardship.
3. Sports stars are often paid a lot of money for product, e.g. the equipment they use and the clothes they wear.
4. Thanks to the latest medical advances, people these days live long lives.
5. The company's stock price after it revised its forecast of a \$20 million profit to a \$1 million loss.
6. The complex nature of emergency medical care means that junior doctors need extensive support and to perform safely.
7. The global clothing retailer was found to be using factories in poor, third world countries which employed child labour. It promised to introduce more business practices and supply chains to avoid the same mistake from happening again.
8. The ideal jury is a of the community from which it is drawn.
9. The newly-elected prime minister said the strong support for his government their policies, including stronger action on climate change.
10. The scientist said global temperatures were expected to rise at least 1 degree Celsius by 2040. But in the worst-case, the increase could be as high as 1.5-2 degrees Celsius, leading to a much greater loss lives.
11. The US and Russia agreed to a reduction to their of nuclear weapons.
12. There was a in play after a 2-hour interruption because of rain.

ANSWERS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • goes to landfill • when China last year stopped accepting Australian waste 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. about a third 2. contamination levels 3. all around the world 4. catch fire (and they did) 5. consumers 6. deposit schemes, levees on single-use plastic
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A community, place, or situation regarded as reflecting the characteristics of something much larger	microcosm
accumulate, collect, gather	stockpile
almost entirely, effectively	virtually
approve, accept, consent to	validate
begin again, continue	resume
decrease rapidly	plummet
give approval of something, support	endorse
openness, honesty	transparency
situation, description of what could happen	scenario
supervision	oversight
very large, shocking, incredible	staggering
when compared to others	relatively

1. A new study showed that a **staggering** number of people across the world die in traffic accidents each year. In China alone the estimate is 275 thousand.
2. During the country's economic crisis, **virtually** every resident suffered some degree of economic hardship.
3. Sports stars are often paid a lot of money for product **endorsements**, e.g. the equipment they use and the clothes they wear.
4. Thanks to the latest medical advances, people these days live **relatively** long lives.
5. The company's stock price **plummeted** after it revised its forecast of a \$20 million profit to a \$1 million loss.
6. The complex nature of emergency medical care means that junior doctors need extensive support and **oversight** to perform safely.
7. The global clothing retailer was found to be using factories in poor, third world countries which employed child labour. It promised to introduce more **transparent** business practices and supply chains to avoid the same mistake from happening again.
8. The ideal jury is a **microcosm** of the community from which it is drawn.
9. The newly-elected prime minister said the strong support for his government **validated** their policies, including stronger action on climate change.
10. The scientist said global temperatures were expected to rise at least 1 degree Celsius by 2040. But in the worst-case **scenario**, the increase could be as high as 1.5-2 degrees Celsius, leading to a much greater loss lives.
11. The US and Russia agreed to a reduction to their **stockpile** of nuclear weapons.
12. There was a **resumption** in play after a 2-hour interruption because of rain.