

# It's the season TO RECYCLE

## The 12 wastes of Christmas

1. Your real **Christmas Trees** can be composted with your garden waste OR dropped at your local transfer station (for a fee). Plastic Christmas trees are reusable, but when they're too old or broken, they can't be recycled and must go to landfill.

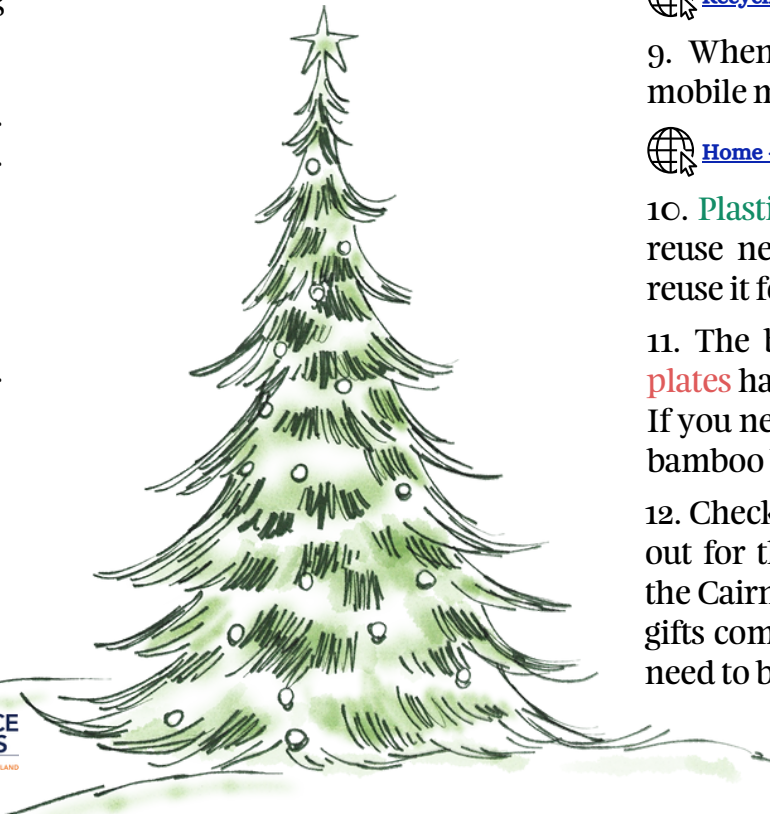
2. **Decorations** come in all sorts of shapes and sizes and if broken, need to be placed in your landfill bin, only if you can't reuse, repurpose or resell.

3. Australians receive up to 20 million **unwanted gifts** a year. Reduce over consumption by gifting an experience or donating to a cause close to their heart. If you are decluttering your unwanted gifts, make sure you donate to a local charity rather than sending them to the landfill.

4. Australians use over 150,000km of **Christmas Paper** a year. This year try reducing the amount of wrapping paper you use. FUROSHIKI is the art of wrapping with patterned fabric, this is a good alternative and brings a touch of character to your gift. An idea could be a colourful tea towel that can then be used over and over again in the kitchen

5. **Leftover food** is a BIG waste stream in Australia. If you can't reuse, give away or compost your leftovers, try looking at sharewaste.com. This website connects you to composters in your local area who are happy to take your leftovers for their gardens.

 [ShareWaste - Give your waste a second chance!](#)



6. **Aluminum baking trays** can be cleaned, scrunched into a ball and recycled in your yellow lid bins.

7. **Bottles and cans** can be saved and taken to your local containers for change refund depot. If you're in the Christmas spirit you can also choose to donate your refund to a charity of your choice.

8. When **batteries** have outlived their use in a remote-controlled car or light saber, they can be recycled as e-waste but only by specialised services – they should never be put in your household recycling or rubbish bin. You can take them to the ecobatt bins at shops such as Woolworths, Officeworks and Coles.

 [Recycling Bin Locations - Eco Batt](#)

9. When you get gifted a new **phone** from Santa, mobile musters will recycle your old phone for free.

 [Home - Mobile Muster](#)

10. **Plastic tablecloths** can't be recycled, so save it to reuse next year or donate to a school so they can reuse it for art time.

11. The ban on single-use **plastic cups, cutlery and plates** has had a positive impact on the environment. If you need to use a single-use option, go for paper or bamboo based items that breakdown naturally.

12. Check if your gift **packaging** can be recycled. Look out for the Australian Recycling Label or search on the Cairns Regional Council recycle mate app. If your gifts come with any Polystyrene or Styrofoam, these need to be sent to landfill.

 Happy festive season from the Ports North Head Office Green Team