

Sustainable living



AUSTRALIA is made up of many amazing and diverse environments such as the world heritage listed Great Barrier Reef. All Australians play an important role in looking after our precious marine and land environments and it is up to you to do your bit to help look after our Great Barrier Reef.

As individuals, we all undertake everyday activities that may impact on the environment.

It is important to keep your sinks and drains free of chemicals and rubbish. Never pour chemicals down the sink and always use a strain in your sink when washing the dishes.

Water is a very precious resource. Using less water in your home and at school will help to decrease the amount of wastewater and stormwater entering local waterways.

Make sure you fix leaking taps around your home and do not



Zev Nutley-Gilmour makes a plea to save the marine life.

amount of waste in your bin and it is good for your gardens and lawn.

Plant garden beds around your home to capture rainwater and minimise runoff.

Try to reuse plastic bottles and other items and recycle as much as you can. This will help to decrease the amount of rubbish that ends up in our landfills and our oceans.

Each year millions of plastic bags pollute the world's oceans, so always use calico or reusable bags when shopping instead of plastic bags.

Sustainable living in your community

Keep the drains and gutters in your local streets free of chemicals and rubbish by picking up litter and never pouring chemicals or detergents into or near drains.

how important they are to our waterways and the Great Barrier Reef.

Wetlands store and filter water run-off, so it is important that they are protected.

Participate in special environmental events such as Clean Up Australia Day, World Environment Day and Coastcare Week. Join a local community group that actively supports the protection of our coasts and oceans such as Waterwatch, Seagrass Watch and Landcare.

Sustainable living in business

Many businesses and industry groups are implementing best practices to ensure the impacts of their activities on important environments like the Great Barrier Reef are minimised. From small offices to large factories, businesses are doing many things to ensure they are working in an environmentally sustainable way.

Some of these best practices include:

- Installing renewable energy systems and conducting regular energy audits to help conserve energy.



Worm farming at its best!

Many of our daily activities can increase the amount of nutrients, sediments and other pollutants being discharged to rivers and creeks.

However, by living in a sustainable way you and your family can make a difference to protect local waterways and help ensure the Reef's existence for generations to come.

DOING YOUR BIT TO LOOK AFTER IT Sustainable living in your home

leave water running for longer than needed.

Always make sure you wash your car on the lawn instead of in your driveway or on the street.

When you wash your car on the street, the detergents can wash into nearby drains and may end up in local waterways.

Make or buy a compost for your yard and put all of your food scraps in it. This will help to minimise the



Educating others...

THIS DRAINS JUST FOR RAIN

What goes into drains usually ends up being discharged into nearby creeks and rivers and might eventually end up in the ocean.

Always put litter in the right place.

Pick up litter around your neighbourhood and on your local beaches, as even the smallest piece of litter can harm the Great Barrier Reef and many of the animals that call it home.

Learn about the wetlands in your area and teach others about

• Implementing water recycling systems and practices that use less water.

• Reusing and recycling wastes. Many companies have put paper recycling bins in their offices and standard recycling bins in their staffrooms to encourage staff to recycle.

Businesses and industry groups are continually improving practices to minimise their impacts on the Great Barrier Reef and help ensure its existence for generations to come.

Alexandra Bay State School students arrange a beach clean-up!

