



Question

What is the impact of bottled water?

Bump The Bottle!

Worldwide, 2.7 million tons of plastic are used each year to make water bottles, and in the United States, less than 20% of these bottles are recycled.

In September 2009, Bundanoon, 160km south of Sydney, voted to ban the sale of bottled water. They're the first community in Australia, and perhaps the world, to do so.

On the same day the NSW premier banned all state departments and agencies from buying bottled water, calling it a waste of money and natural resources.

Many things in this world get wasted, fill up our landfills, harming the environment and our health - don't let bottled water, something so unnecessary and avoidable, be one of them.

Instead of buying bottled water, use BPA-free containers and fill them with tap water.

- * It takes 16 litres of tap water to produce 1 litre of bottled water
- * 300,000 barrels of oil are used each year in Australia to make PET (plastic) bottles for bottled water
- * Of all plastic drink bottles, only 35% are recycled in Australia each year
- * 76,700 tonnes of plastic drink bottles enter Australian landfills each year
- * 60,000 tonnes of greenhouse emissions in Australia come from consumption of bottled water
- * Waste from bottled water refuse and recycling can kill marine life





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Health Effects

- * Bottled water is **no healthier** than tap water
- * Some bottled water is **not regulated** or checked for purity
- * About **40%** of bottled water brands use filtered tap water
- * **Toxic chlorine gas** produced from recycling plastic water bottles is exported to China



Social Effects

- * **Large corporations** purchase ground water rights for bottling
- * Aquifers are often over-pumped, leaving local residents in developing nations **without water**
- * Draws **community attention away** from local water infrastructure, maintenance or improvement projects



Economic Effects

- * **\$385 million a year** spent on bottled water costing around 10,000 times more than tap water
- * **Extra \$500-\$1,200 per year per household**, compared to using the tap



Quick Quiz

- * What does BPA stand for?
- * What is an Aquifer?
- * What is the toxic chlorine gas produced from recycling plastic water bottles?