

# CLOSING THE RECYCLED PAPER LOOP

In the past, if paper had been used once - for printing, writing, drawing - it was thrown in the bin and taken to landfill, never to be used again.

Presently, we recycle at least 68% of used paper - more than two of every three sheets used! However as the saying goes, unless you're buying recycled, you're not really recycling. You are only doing half the job. At the moment, less than 18% of new reams contain any recycled paper...that's less than one in five reams!



## PAPER AND FORESTS

In Australia - and in most places around the world - all timber and wood production is undertaken in managed and certified forests, meaning these trees have been grown specifically for the purpose of harvesting: trees are not typically harvested just for paper. Instead they are harvested for their wood (things like furniture, house frames, floor boards etc.). Any bits that are left over from this process, such as like small or twisted branches, knots and outer layers, are then used to make paper pulp.

In managed forests that contain native trees, the wood is of high value and makes good quality paper, but most of the tree is harvested for the wood because that is where the value is. In other forests - like pine plantations - the wood is of lower value so it may be that some trees are harvested specifically for paper production.

While all trees contribute to environmental health by converting CO<sub>2</sub> into oxygen and providing habitats for animals, pine plantations have far fewer environmental benefits. Not being native species they are unable to provide as many habitat opportunities for native animals, and they usually require the use of pesticides to manage pests.

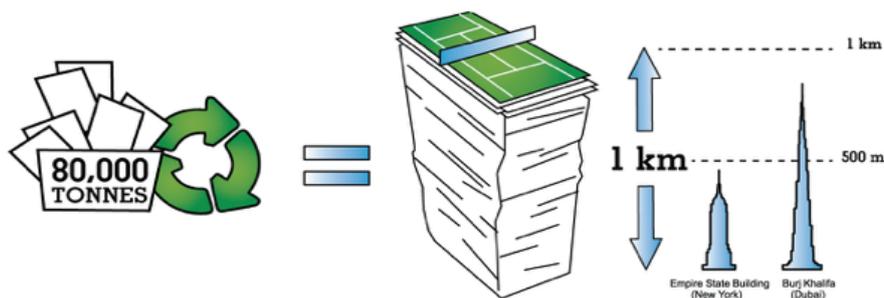
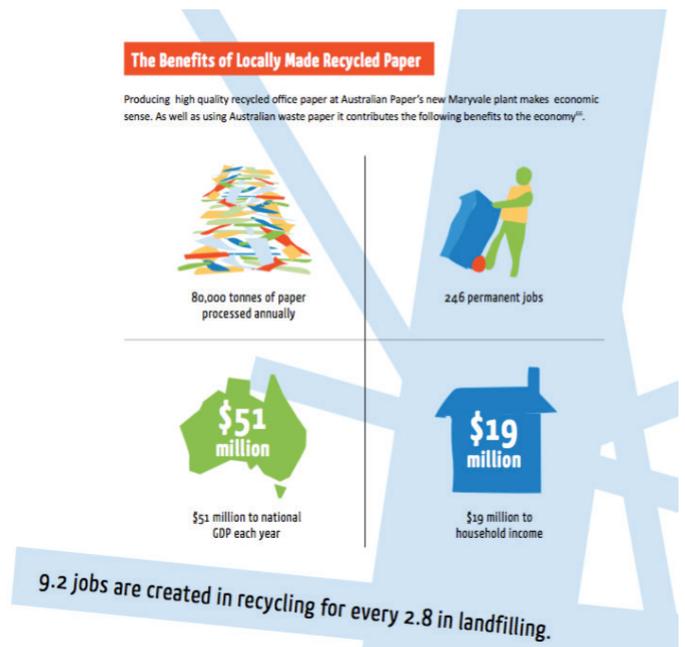
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## RECYCLED PAPER VERSUS VIRGIN PAPER

Some people think that recycled paper is of a lower quality to virgin paper. This could be because when recycled paper first appeared decades ago it had flecks of different coloured paper through it. The good news is that technology has moved on - there's not much difference between new and recycled paper at all!

Australian Paper has built a \$90 million paper recycling plant at Maryvale in Victoria; this will greatly increase the production of local recycled paper. To help us all make the switch to recycled, Planet Ark and Australian Paper have teamed up to create bright white, 100% recycled paper. It is hoped that through this initiative, the recycling of printing paper will increase, the amount of Australian waste paper going to landfill will be reduced and locally made, high-recycled content paper will be used more by businesses, schools, households and government.

"Planet Ark has a long history of working constructively with businesses to help them lessen their environmental impacts," said Paul Klymenko, CEO of Planet Ark. "The recycling plant will take up to 80,000 tonnes of wastepaper, which is equivalent to 16 billion sheets of A4 paper, enough to pile a tennis court 1 kilometre high every year."



Jim Henneberry, CEO Australian Paper, said that the new paper recycling plant will make Australian made recycled paper an easy choice: "We want to move the recycled dial from niche to normal and prove to everyone who buys paper that recycled doesn't have to mean lower quality," he said.

All you have to do is use Australian made recycled paper to close the recycling loop and finish the job!