How food waste is managed in Australia







Supporting efficiency and innovation in agriculture

Key players: Australian Government, state and territory governments, primary producers, academic institutions.

In Australia, food that does not make it to the consumer can result from weather, pest and diseases or not meeting market specifications. Some businesses have identified opportunities to use unwanted produce-for example, turning broken or bent carrots into packaged carrot sticks for sale in supermarkets.





Assessing food ordering, transport and storage practices

Key players: Australian Government, state and territory governments, primary producers, academic institutions.

Food and grocery retailers are assessing their supply chains to maximise the shelf life of food and to improve their ordering systems so that the food ordered accurately reflects demand.

Households should consider the food they buy and how they store it. They should only buy what is needed and use 'best before' and 'use by' dates effectively.



Using packaging effectively and sustainably

Key players: food processing and manufacturing industries, state and territory governments, Standards Australia, Australian Government.

Effective use of packaging can increase the shelf-life of food products but it can also make food waste unsustainable for composting if it is not disposed of separately.

The Australian Government partners with other jurisdictions and industry through the Australian Packaging Covenant to improve packaging design and increase the recycling of packaging.





Encouraging partnerships between food and grocery retailers and charitable organisations

Key players: food and grocery retailers, food rescue organisations.

Major food and grocery retailers in Australia have partnered with food recovery organisations and committed to reducing the amount of food waste that goes to landfill. This means retailers can meet their food waste reduction goals and also help charities to improve food security.





Conducting household education and community initiatives

Key players: state and territory governments, local governments, notfor-profit organisations.

A number of state and territory governments have invested in public education campaigns to reduce food waste. Some local councils are also encouraging home composting by providing their residents with home compost bins or offering a rebate on composting equipment.



