

Bottled water 'bad as smoking'

By Brian Williams

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DRINKING bottled water is so anti-environment that it should be made as unfashionable as smoking.

A British study has found that drinking a bottle of water has the same impact on the environment as driving a car a kilometre.

Its production generated up to 600 times more CO₂ than tap water.

The research was backed strongly yesterday by Clean Up Australia chairman Ian Kiernan, who said using the product was destructive to the environment and users should suffer from social taboos.

"Anyone buying this stuff needs to have their head examined," Mr Kiernan said.

"It works out that for those buying water shipped in from overseas, they are paying something like \$9000 to \$10,000 a tonne for water that's worth about a dollar here.

"The full environmental footprint is frightening when you take into account the greenhouse gases produced in bottling, trucking and shipping. And do people realise the bottle is made from oil anyway?"