

Toxic Product Fact Sheet

	Quantities Disposed	Hazardous Materials	Wasted Resources	Producer Take-back	International Best Practice
Computers	3 million computers enter the NSW market per year. Most find their way to landfill after a period of storage. Up to 5000 tonnes go to NSW landfills per year.	Mercury, arsenic, cadmium, PVC, lead, solvents, brominated flame retardants, acids and other toxics. Monitor contains approx 2 kg of lead.	Approximately 28 rare and non-renewable materials including gold, platinum, silver, palladium, antimony.	Collection schemes are limited to the corporate sector. No industry-wide take-back scheme exists. Hazardous materials still used in production despite the availability of less toxic substitutions.	EU requires take-back of all electric and electronic products. The use of hazardous substances in electric and electronic products is banned. California and Massachusetts have banned the landfilling of cathode ray tubes. 20 US States now have electronic waste legislation.
TVs	99% of Australian households own televisions. Up to 15,000 tonnes of TVs disposed to NSW landfills per year.	Lead, cadmium, brominated flame retardants and other toxic materials.	Plastics, glass, lead and other materials.	While industry is developing a national take-back scheme, it has not yet been implemented.	EU requires take-back of all electric and electronic products. The use of hazardous substances in electric and electronic products is banned. Japan requires take-back of certain electronic products. California and Massachusetts have banned the landfilling of cathode ray tubes. 20 US States now have electronic waste legislation.
NiCad Batteries (found in a range of electrical products)	Standby batteries in appliances and portable appliances such as power tools and camcorders. Around 500 tonnes disposed to NSW landfills per year.	Cadmium.	Nickel, steel, graphite, cadmium.	No system exists for the collection of NiCads.	EU requires take-back of all electric and electronic products. Use of hazardous substances in electric and electronic products is banned. EU is considering a total ban. 13 US States regulate battery labelling and removeability. 8 US States have take-back requirements for NiCads.
Mobile Phones	At least 25 million mobile phones have reached end-of-life in Australia. There is no data to establish how many of these will be dumped. months.	Contain arsenic, cadmium, lead and other heavy metals.	Nickel, cadmium, plastics, gold, copper.	'MobileMuster' is poorly performing industry scheme that recovers less than 5% of phones. Aims to recover 12% of all phones by 2008, with no further plans.	EU laws require take-back of all electric and electronic products. Use of hazardous substances in electric and electronic products has been banned. USA legislation requires battery recycling and labelling. USA, Germany, Switzerland, Japan, Korea and Taiwan have banned disposal of mobile phones to landfill.
Used Tyres	Around 16 million discarded tyres are generated every year, 90% of which end up in landfills.	Chemicals can leach into groundwater from shredded and discarded tyres.	Tyres can be re-used in civil engineering and recycled into rubber and oil products.	The 1998 the Tyre Industry Waste Reduction Plan was not supported by industry and failed.	Tyres are banned from landfill in USA and Europe . Recycling rates for scrap tyres in Taiwan increased from 51% to 105.64% after producer take-back regulations were introduced.
End-of-Life Vehicles	500,000 vehicles are discarded in Australia every year. About 70% of each vehicle is recycled. This leaves 70,000 tonnes of toxic waste per year to be dumped.	Lead, mercury, solvents, oils, brominated flame retardants, PVC are the residuals from vehicle shredding.	Steel, glass, plastics, foams.	No industry scheme for take-back on end-of-life vehicles. No regulations ensure recycling or the reduction of hazardous materials in 'shredder flock'.	European manufacturers must recycle 95% of the vehicles they manufacture. Residual waste is classified as 'hazardous' and dealt with appropriately. The use of hazardous substances in manufacture recently banned in Europe.