

### **Key mobile phone recycling facts (*figures current at 31 Mar 2008*)**

- There are over 19 million mobile phone subscribers.
- Australians upgrade or exchange their mobile phones every 18 to 24 months.
- 80% of people choose to keep or give away their old mobile phones, less than 4% throw them out.
- It is estimated that there are about 16 million old mobile phones cluttering people's homes and offices across Australia.
- Net imports of mobile phones into Australia for 2006/07 were 7.4 million units. This is equivalent to 1,480 tonnes (assuming average unit weight of 200g – handset, battery, charger and accessory included).
- In 2006/2007 MobileMuster collected 86 tonnes of mobile phone components including 577,000 handsets and batteries.
- 525 tonnes of handsets, batteries and accessories have been collected since the recycling program was initiated by ATMA in late 1999. This includes 3 million batteries and handsets.
- One tonne of mobile phone circuits can yield the same amount of precious metals as 110 tonnes of gold ore, 123 tonnes of silver bearing ore and 11 tonnes of copper sulphide ore.
- Mobile phones are not biodegradable and contain small amounts of potentially harmful substances such as cadmium in NiCad batteries which if not managed properly can damage the environment.
- MobileMuster is a whole of industry not for profit program that is funded voluntarily by handset and accessory manufacturers Nokia, Motorola, Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics, Sharp, NEC, Panasonic, I-Mate, Force Technology and network carriers Telstra, Optus, Vodafone, 3 Mobile, Virgin Mobile and AAPT