Australia is one of the world’s top ten consumers of electronic goods, buying more than 4 million computers and 3 million televisions every year.¹

Our reliance on electronic devices is rapidly increasing, making e-waste one of the fastest growing contributors to our waste stream.

E-waste is being sent to landfill at three times the rate of general waste²

If half of the televisions discarded annually were recycled, 23,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions would be saved, which is equal to 5,300 cars off the road for an entire year¹

Televisions and computers also contain valuable non-renewable resources including gold, steel, copper, zinc, aluminium and brass³

The amount of gold recovered from one tonne of computers is more than what is recovered from 17 tonnes of gold ore³

Televisions and computers contain hazardous materials such as lead, cadmium and mercury, which are toxic to the environment if not treated correctly²

95-98% of the components in your computer or television can be fully recycled²

1. PGM Refiners
2. Greenpeace
3. Australian Bureau of Statistics
What happens to e-waste?

**COLLECTION**
Electronic waste is collected from businesses and public drop-offs and sent to a recycling facility.

**SORTING AND DISMANTLING**
The collected e-waste items are manually sorted, dismantled and categorized into core materials and components. The dismantled items that can be immediately reused are separated from the parts that need to continue along the recycling processes.

**MANUFACTURING**

**EASILY DISMANTLABLE MATERIALS**

- **Hard drives**
  Hard drives are shredded in whole and processed into aluminium ingots for use in automotive industry.

- **Circuit boards**
  Circuit boards are sent to specialised, accredited companies where they are smelted to recover non-renewable resources such as silver, tin, gold, palladium, copper and other valuable metals.

- **Glass retrieval**
  Glass is retrieved from the Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) mostly found in televisions and computer monitors and recycled into new screens.

**NON-DISMANTLABLE MATERIALS**

- **Shredding**
  The disassembled material continues down the conveyor belt into a shredder. The material is shredded to the size of a poker chip.

- **Magnetic components**
  An over-band magnet is used to remove all the magnetic materials including steel and iron from the shredded e-waste.

- **Plastic and metal separation**
  Copper, aluminium, and brass are separated from plastic using eddy currents and optical identification machines. The materials are either sold as raw materials or re-manufactured into new products.