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No excuses for e-waste dumping in Canberra

"Many people mistakenly think they're helping local charities by leaving their old televisions or computers for collection at their sites, but they are in fact dumping e-waste," said Carmel Dollisson CEO, TechCollect.

Despite being the first state or territory in Australia to implement landfill bans for computers and televisions¹, Canberra residents can go further in reducing their e-waste impact.

"Research tells us that 95%² of charities typically have too much e-waste, with many having to spend crucial funds to safely dispose of it, rather than the money going towards their important programs," commented Dollisson.

Dollisson believes easy-to-access, free, drop-off services under the Government's National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme go a long way in encouraging residents to be more aware of recycling, turning it into a habit, "In many respects Canberra has led the way with e-waste recycling, but charities are still seeing dumping at their bins and stores across Canberra. Residents mistakenly believe they're disposing of their e-waste responsibly, but there is no reason for dumping when we have the opportunity to utilise free drop-off services."

This is a testament supported by local Australian Capital Territory (ACT) government representative David Roberts, Acting Director of ACT NOWaste, "Not only has the scheme boosted recycling rates for televisions and computers and provided a long-term solution to e-waste, but it has also helped alleviate some of the ongoing illegal dumping issues in the ACT. The scheme has become even more important as residents upgrade from analogue to digital televisions and replace older computers for the latest technology," said Roberts.

Canberra residents and businesses will be able to dispose of their unwanted old TVs, computers and printers at a free one-day drop-off-e-waste recycling service organised by TechCollect, Saturday 12 April, opposite the Fyshwick Fresh Food Market.

Dollisson believes the convenience of the drop-off centre will encourage more residents to dispose of their e-waste responsibly, "Our drop-off location is near a public space visited by many locals and will provide a free and easy e-waste recycling service for Canberrans. You can be sure that when you bring your TVs, computers and printers to us on 12 April, they will be recycled responsibly," explains Dollisson.

Australians are also among the highest users of technology and e-waste is one of the fastest growing types of waste, with approximately four million computers and three million TVs purchased annually and an estimated 44 million computers and TVs reaching the end of their useful life by 2027/28.³

"TechCollect is committed to keeping e-waste out of landfill, partnering with world class recyclers to recover more than 90% of raw materials from collections for re-use in new products," said Dollisson.

Event Details:

- **When:** Saturday 12 April 2014, from 9am – 4pm
- **Where:** Toll Express Depot, Unit 1, 23 Mildura Street Fyshwick, ACT 2609

Items ACCEPTED by TechCollect:

¹ Computers 2005, televisions 2010

² National Association of Charitable Recycling Organisations. (2010). *E-waste survey on charitable recyclers*.

³ Source: (abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Products/4602.0.55.005~2013~Main+Features~Electronic+and+Electrical+Waste?OpenDocument)

- All computers, laptops and tablets
- All computer accessories and peripherals (e.g. cables, hard drives, keyboards, mice & web cameras)
- All printers, faxes, scanners and multi-functional devices
- All TVs

Important Points

- Drop off and recycling is free for local residents, the general public and businesses
- For your safety, you may need to remain in your vehicle at the drop-off site when directed to do so by site staff
- It is your responsibility to delete any data from your devices

For further information visit techcollect.com.au

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About TechCollect

TechCollect is a free national e-waste recycling service funded by over 60 of Australia's leading technology importers and manufacturers dedicated to responsible recycling, including Apple, Dell, Toshiba, Lenovo, Fuji Xerox, Panasonic, Epson and many others. TechCollect is committed to setting the highest Australian standard for responsible recycling of e-waste. It is Australia's only Government approved, industry backed, not-for-profit e-waste recycling service under the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme. Visit techcollect.com.au for more information and to find your nearest collection site.

About the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme

The National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme combines government regulation with industry action to take responsibility for safe recycling of electronic waste. The scheme is funded and run by industry and regulated by the Australian Government, with the aim of providing Australian householders and small business access to free e-waste recycling services. For more information visit environment.gov.au