

# MUSTERKIDS<sup>®</sup>

## Mobile Phone Debate Cards

### Australian Consumer

I like to replace my mobile phone every two years as the newer ones have great features and applications. I want to do the right thing for the environment but I am also interested in someone else reusing my old phone. I am worried what might happen to my mobile if it is sent overseas and can no longer be used. What will they do to my mobile if they can't resell it? If I am going to recycle my mobile phone it has to be free and easy.

### Manufacturer

There are 30 million mobile phone subscribers in Australia. About 7 million new handsets are shipped here every year, and most Australians upgrade their handset every 18-24 months. We want to promote the best reuse, refurbishing, material recovery, recycling and disposal options both in Australia and the developing world. In Australia we support and fund the MobileMuster product stewardship program which provides free recycling of mobile phones. Since late 1998 the mobile phone industry has collected and recycled more than 1,000 tonnes of old mobile phones, batteries, chargers and accessories - keeping them out of landfill.

### Australian Recycler

I want to recover the resources from old mobile phones. There are millions of unwanted and unused mobile phones being stored in Australian homes. There are a lot of materials that can be recovered simply through recycling. We are able to extract and reuse plastics, copper, lithium, cobalt and precious metals (gold, silver, copper). These materials can be made into new products like aluminium cans and plastic fence posts. By recovering and reusing these resources fewer precious metals will need to be mined and less green house gases will be produced.

For more information on MobileMuster or to send us your work please go to [www.mobilemuster.com.au/schools](http://www.mobilemuster.com.au/schools)

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## Government Official

Although mobile phones present no environmental or human health hazard in ordinary use, hazardous substances may be released into the environment from certain landfills, incinerators recycling facilities. The Government is concerned what happens in developing countries because those countries are not as likely to have adequate resources and waste management infrastructures. Our position is that mobile phones must be managed in an environmentally sound way in order to minimize releases into the environment and threats to human health. Australia is a signatory to the Basel Convention which means we want to minimise generation and export of hazardous waste.

## Worker in a Developing Country

I spend my day sorting through old mobile phones. I don't get paid much money and the conditions are not great but I have a job and can provide for my family and send my kids to school. I work long hours, sometimes 16 hours a day and have no protective clothing or equipment. Some of my family and friends think it is unsafe and the old phones could be poisonous. They worry about me getting sick. All the old parts of the mobile phones that cannot be sold are dumped in the streets.

## Australian Reseller

I want to resell old mobile phones and extend their life. I am happy to offer a small amount of cash in return for old mobiles. Most of these mobile I will sell overseas into developing countries for reuse. I am able to give people living in developing countries the opportunity to purchase low cost mobile phones. Having access to a mobile can increase their opportunities and quality of life. Sometimes I pay charities that help us collect old mobile phones in Australia.

## Mobile Phone User Developing Country

I run a small farm in Africa and use my mobile phone to run my business. I use a second hand mobile and it is a vital part of my business. I use voice calls and texts to let customers know when the harvest is ready. People can also pay me using the mobile phone. I am also studying part-time and use the mobile phone in my study. The mobile phone allows me to connect with friends and family.

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