

# Energy Conservation

## Fluorescent tube recycling



Since 1997, Crown has been separating the general waste stream into recyclable components such as cardboard, plastic, paper and glass from across the complex. In 2004, we began the process of separating organic material and composting it for reuse. By 2009, more than 30% of all Crown waste was recycled.

To assist in the recycling process, Crown has a number of specialist waste streams that are diverted from landfill. One of these streams is the recycling of fluorescent tubes. The mercury contained in one fluorescent tube can pollute 30,000 litres of water beyond a safe drinking level. By recycling the mercury, glass, aluminium and phosphor powder from fluorescent tubes, this saves valuable resources and helps prevent environmental pollution.

Since October 2006, Crown has engaged CMA Eco Cycle as the specialist contractor responsible for collecting all used tubes. Once collected, the

components are separated and isolated, together with the mercury, cleaned and distilled so they may be reused in other products. For the majority of the time, this results in no waste being sent to landfill. For each tonne of tubes diverted, this results in savings of 1.44 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e and 4,000L of water.

Every year, Crown recycles around 2 tonnes of fluorescent tubes, resulting in 3 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>-e savings and 8,000L of water savings per year. Looking to the future, Crown is considering expanding this recycling scheme to include all fluorescent lamps that are used throughout the Complex.

To assist in the national uptake of fluorescent tube recycling, Crown became a signatory to the Federal Government's FluoroCycle scheme in March 2011. FluoroCycle ([www.fluorocycle.org.au](http://www.fluorocycle.org.au)) is a voluntary, national scheme that aims to increase recycling of mercury-containing lamps.

