



## MANAGING e-waste IN VICTORIA

- › The e-waste policy commences in July 2018
- › SV is developing an education and awareness campaign
- › SV is designing and implementing an e-waste infrastructure support program
- › DELWP is coordinating the design and development the policy package to manage e-waste.
- › EPA is developing the regulatory tools and associated guidance materials
- › WRRGs are informing the design of the policy package and insights into stakeholder perspectives

Electronic waste or 'e-waste' will soon be banned from landfill in Victoria owing to a commitment by the Victorian Government in 2014. E-waste describes electrical or electronic equipment with a power cord or battery at the end of its useful life and covers a range of electronic items used and discarded at work and at home. E-waste contains both hazardous materials, which can harm the environment and human health, and valuable materials, which are scarce and worth recovering. For both these reasons, it is important e-waste is well managed.

E-waste is growing three times faster than general municipal waste in Australia due to increased technology trends, reduced product lifespan and consumer demand for new products, putting pressure on waste management infrastructure and the environment. Sustainability Victoria's E-waste Market Flow Analysis conducted in 2015, projects the amount of e-waste generated in Victoria to increase from 109,000 tonnes in 2015 to approximately 256,000 tonnes in 2035.

Using the findings of this analysis, other behavioural and impacts analyses, and feedback from industry, government and community, the Victorian Government has designed an approach to managing e-waste in Victoria. The approach aims to reduce waste to landfill, increase resource recovery, and support jobs and investment in the recycling industry. Recovering more resources will reduce our impact on the environment and climate change, create jobs, and bolster our economy.



## WORKING TOGETHER

Sustainability Victoria is working across government to design how we manage e-waste.

The E-waste Working Group (EWG) was established to work closely together to drive the design and development of an approach to managing e-waste in Victoria. The EWG comprises representatives from Sustainability Victoria (SV), the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Environment Protection Authority Victoria (EPA) and Victoria's waste and resource recovery groups (WRRGs).

Specific roles and responsibilities of the EWG representatives are as follows:

### **DELWP**

Coordinating the design and development of the policy package to manage e-waste in Victoria.

### **EPA**

Designing and developing the regulatory tools and associated guidance materials.

### **SV**

Designing and developing non-regulatory support measures, targeting community awareness, local government capacity and industry's capability to deal with increasing volumes of e-waste in Victoria.

### **WRRGs**

Informing the design of the policy package to better manage e-waste in Victoria and provide insights into local stakeholder perspectives.

## PROPOSED POLICY PACKAGE

The proposed approach to managing e-waste in Victoria comprises both regulatory and non-regulatory components.

The **regulatory** component involves:

- a. amending the *Waste Management Policy (Siting, Design and Management of Landfills) No. S264* to include e-waste as a material banned from landfill; and
- b. a new waste management policy to specify how e-waste should be managed, heavily leaning on specifications in the standard *AS/NZS 5377: 2013 Collection, storage, transport and treatment of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment*.

The **non-regulatory** component is a program funded through Victoria's Sustainability Fund. It comprises:

- a. an e-waste infrastructure support program for those involved in the collection of e-waste (\$15 million); and
- b. an education and awareness campaign (\$1.5 million) to increase community awareness about e-waste, and what can be done with e-waste.

The waste management policies and a **policy impact assessment**, which details the proposed policy package and assesses the impacts the package may have on Victoria, will be published shortly for three months' public consultation. All stakeholders will be notified when it is available. Details of where it can be accessed and how feedback can be submitted will also be promoted broadly.

Led by Sustainability Victoria, the design and development of the non-regulatory support program is underway in collaboration with other key stakeholders, such as Victoria's waste and resource recovery groups and local councils. Further detail on this component is provided below.

## NON-REGULATORY SUPPORT PROGRAM

The objectives of the non-regulatory support program are that:

- › Victorians are informed of the environmental and health related impacts of e-waste and have access to information advising how they can appropriately manage e-waste
- › collection, storage, transportation and processing of e-waste is conducted at a high standard, and
- › capacity and capability of those managing e-waste is improved.

## EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

SV is developing an education and awareness campaign with an emphasis on building knowledge about what e-waste is, as well as focussing on the environmental benefits of either recycling electronic items, repairing, or donating them. The campaign will provide clear and consistent information on where unwanted items can be taken via public relations and through the SV website.

As part of the campaign materials will be developed to communicate to foster new behaviours in managing e-waste in Victoria.



## E-WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Victorian Government has allocated \$15 million to design and implement an e-waste infrastructure support program to upgrade Victoria's e-waste collection network, increasing community access to e-waste disposal points and expanding capacity to receive and safely manage rising volumes of e-waste.

As an essential first step, SV is in the process of undertaking an assessment of the current e-waste collection network across Victoria to understand the status of required infrastructure upgrades at selected sites. The network assessment will identify key priority collection points, gaps in e-waste collection capacity and compliance with the new regulatory requirements. The assessment will help to develop a longer-term strategy for improvements to the collection network and will provide the sound evidence base required to underpin funding prioritisation. Network assessments are planned for October and November 2017.



## NEXT STEPS AND KEY MILESTONES

KEY MILESTONE	ANTICIPATED TIMEFRAME
Public consultation on the preferred policy package to ban e-waste	September 2017 – January 2018
E-waste infrastructure network assessment	September – December 2017
Ministerial announcement on e-waste infrastructure support program	January 2018
Regulatory components take effect	July 2018