

Managing e-waste in Victoria

Continuing the conversation



Thank you to those who provided feedback on our proposed e-waste policy package.

We offered our plan

The Victorian Government has committed to banning e-waste from landfill. Our e-waste policy package was open for public comment from October 2017 to January 2018. That includes both regulatory and non-regulatory measures aimed at keeping e-waste out of landfill.

The regulatory measures involve new rules to ban e-waste from landfill and specify how e-waste is to be managed safely. The non-regulatory measures include upgrades to Victoria's existing e-waste collection network and an education and awareness campaign.

We received fifty-seven formal submissions and spoke to hundreds of stakeholders during the consultation, and we're responding to what we heard.

This paper summarises important feedback raised during the consultation. It also provides an update on Victoria's e-waste infrastructure support program and its e-waste education and awareness campaign.

We heard your views

We received a great deal of useful feedback, and we're still working through the details. This update is about how we're responding to the big issues you raised.

You generally supported the e-waste ban, but you raised several important concerns:

- The infrastructure needed to safely collect and store e-waste, including infrastructure funded through the e-waste infrastructure support program, needs to be in place before the ban commences.
- Victorians may not understand what we mean by e-waste or their role in keeping e-waste out of landfill. The education and awareness campaign needs to start well in advance of the ban.
- Collection, recycling and waste businesses wanted greater clarity about the compliance approach to the ban when it starts.
- Local councils will incur ongoing costs for transport and reprocessing of e-waste, illegal dumping clean-ups, community education, and upgrades to collection infrastructure.
- Councils raised concerns about the costs of an e-waste ban this year, because China's recent trade restrictions have recently increased recycling costs for councils and ratepayers.

We've adjusted our plan

The Victorian Government carefully considered these important issues and has decided that the e-waste ban will commence on 1 July 2019.

The regulatory measures, in the form of waste management policies under the *Environment Protection Act 1970*, will be enacted in July 2018, with a commencement date of 1 July 2019.

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What does this mean for you?

A 1 July 2019 commencement will allow time for:

- those who manage e-waste in Victoria to:
 - become familiar with, and adapt to, the new rules
 - budget for future costs relating to the ban
 - update or establish new waste contracts
 - adapt existing systems and strategies.
- the e-waste collection network, including the state government-funded sites, to be up and running.
- people to better understand e-waste and what they can do with it.

Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will enforce the new rules from 1 July 2019, in line with their existing *Compliance and Enforcement Policy*.

There is lots to do to prepare for the ban. Let's work together to be ready.



Next steps

Over the coming weeks, we will work through all

feedback received and determine how to respond.

New rules for e-waste

We will make the waste management policies in July 2018 and the new rules will then be available on the EPA Victoria website.

We will also release a feedback report in July 2018, which will summarise all the detailed feedback received and describe how we have responded to each issue.

Infrastructure support program

E-waste collection sites have been prioritised for funded upgrades, and councils will soon receive funding to upgrade those sites. We expect construction of facilities through the 2018-19 financial year.

The e-waste collection network will provide all Victorians with reasonable access to a safe collection site wherever they are in Victoria.

Education and awareness

From July 2018 Victorians will be able to learn more about e-waste and what to do with it through various channels, such as a new website, social media, television and radio advertising, and local councils.

They will also learn more about the benefits of re-using, repairing and recycling e-waste.

For further information, please contact the DELWP Waste and Resource Recovery team at wastepolicy@delwp.vic.gov.au.

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