

29 October 2015

Managing Ewaste in Victoria

- We believe that the majority of people are aware of the definition of what E-waste is.
- The problem with E-waste is not Ewaste but the support from government in banning the material, we believe that there already is so many options available and more will appear once a ban is announced.
- One of the major problems is that export is allowed there are so many options and opportunities for the waste to be treated in Australia there should be more supervision and control on what is exported and where it is exported to. It is too easy to just change the description on what the shipping container contains to avoid further investigation and restrictions
- One barrier is that companies outside the product stewardship arrangement does not get any support. The majority of the recycling can be done from a commercial point and requires little or no financial support from government. The major problem is the CRTs but there are options and solutions in Australia that are not being optimised.
- Some components are undervalued but it all comes down to the process and throughput capacities of the process that are utilised to recycle E-waste. The more labour cost that has to be put in to recycling the less viable it becomes. The more automated the process is the better the returns are.
- We believe that banning will only be successful if it is followed up with some mechanism to ensure that recycling is happening as per legislative requirements. In our experience other bans in the past have been lost due to the lack of follow up and control from government departments.
- Allow more commercial competition don't restrict E-waste recycling to the product stewardship arrangement.
- There are so many laws and regulations protecting OH&S, the environment etc. but some innovation solutions and companies are not recognised due to not having the rights ISO standards and therefore not considered as "correct" options in the recycling of E-waste. Some recyclers are so multi skilled that it would be a monumental task to comply with a myriad of ISO standards on top of other legal requirements and add an unnecessary financial burden on these companies and in turn increase to cost of E-waste recycling which in turn encourages the export of these materials. The motto should and must be "everything in moderation" do not overregulate!