Managing e-waste in Victoria – starting the conversation

Questionnaire

**Submitter:** Local Government 3

**Q 1: Is the proposed definition of e-waste clear to you?**

Yes, however, we believe the wording “without the intention of re-use’” should be removed.

**Q 2: Are the proposed categories of e-waste clear to you? If not, can you suggest any specific changes to the existing categories, or another method of categorisation?**

Yes. Please indicate that items listed may have hazardous materials, as such consideration should be given as to how these will be managed.

**Q 3 : What specific issues do you believe we need to address by banning e-waste from landfill?**

This scheme needs to be full cost recovery with no financial burden on local government (EPA Landfill Levy could be used for this). Capacity of facilities to accept the products. Putting systems in place to reduce the creation of e-waste in the first instance. Ensuring the programs do not have limits of volumes received.

**Q 4: What do you see as current and future impacts of e-waste on the environment or human health? Can you provide examples?**

Question not answered

**Q 5: What do you see as potential impacts (both positive and negative) from recovering e-waste?**

Question not answered

**Q 6: Do you believe there are particular reasons for not recovering e-waste?**

No.

**Q 7: Do you believe there are other issues with the e-waste recycling market, or with specific stages of the e-waste recycling market?**

There are currently limits to the types and volumes of materials accepted. Limited number of receival facilities. This will need to be addressed before a total ban is put in place.

**Q 8: Are you aware of other barriers to achieving a sustainable e-waste recycling market?**

Question not answered

**Q 9: Do you think e-waste and its components are undervalued in Australia?**

Question not answered

**Q 10: Do you believe that banning e-waste from landfill will achieve these outcomes?**

Not by itself. A program that links the ban with products stewardship, community education and increased facilities is required.

**Q 11: Are there other outcomes you believe the commitment should, or is likely to, achieve?**

Reduce dumping and increase number/locations of recycling receival facilities.

**Q 12: What criteria do you think will be useful to help us determine how the different types of e-waste are managed in Victoria?**

We agree with the criteria however projected volumes should not be used to limit the volumes of e-waste accepted in the case of a total ban.

**Q 13: Do you think some regions will require more time to prepare for a landfill ban than others?**

Yes as facilities may need to be established to receive products.

**Q 14: What changes, if any, will need to occur in your region before e-waste can be banned from landfill and managed appropriately?**

Establishment of facilities, collection programs and income from the state or federal government to cover these costs.

**Q 15: Do you think banning e-waste from landfill in Victoria will need to take a phased approach? If so, what do you think should be key considerations in determining how the phasing occurs?**

Yes it will need to be a phased approach. Drop-off facility improvements, existing processing technology, modification/adjustment to current collection contracts (if possible to do so)

**Q 16: Do you believe there are other principles that must be considered in the development of Victoria’s approach to ban e-waste from landfill?**

Yes we agree, however, there should be another principle stating that there should be systems put in place to reduce the creation of e-waste. For example, product stewardship schemes.

**Q 17: What other tools do you think the government should consider when designing Victoria’s approach to banning e-waste from landfill?**

Full funding of the scheme, programs to reduce the creation of the waste product, sufficient recycling options for all products covered by the ban and a capacity to enforce is built into the program.

**Q 18: How do you think community could be supported to ensure e-waste continues to be recovered and recycled?**

Community must have access to an affordable, safe and easy way to recycle the banned material. Education programs.

**Q 19: How do you think the design of the approach to banning e-waste could be designed to mitigate these unintended consequences?**

Ensure that programs, facilities and options are all considered and in place prior to the ban being implemented.

**Q 20: Are you aware of any policy developments or reviews, both interstate and nationally, that may be useful in the design and implementation of the e-waste commitment?**

Question not answered