Managing e-waste in Victoria – starting the conversation

Questionnaire

**Submitter:** Local Government 4

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

Yes

**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?**

The categories are clear. I would add some items to them. Add Dishwashers to Large Appliances, Add Cd Players to Small Appliances, Add PVR’s and Blu Ray/DVD Players to IT, Telecommunications and TV Equipment.

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

Alternate disposal options. The Federal Government Product Stewardship program does not adequately serve the needs of Local Governments for the disposal of e-waste. We just need more options.

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

If the option to dispose of e waste in proper landfill is removed without a viable alternative then we will see more instances of dumping which is an already growing problem.

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

Less impact on the natural environment, fewer mines and oilfields are needed to meet demand. Also more jobs may be created which is a good thing. Cost of electronic items may go up to cover the recovery costs of materials. Reduced Dumping of waste by the community.

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

Cost seems to be the biggest barrier due to the labor intensive nature of recovery. But really we should be recovering all resources that we use. So there needs to be a technological solution. If pressure was put on manufacturers to make their products r

**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?**Question not answered

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

There's not a lot of incentive. Components can be purchased cheaply from overseas so the local market has little control over pricing and supply.

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

Not so much undervalued. It's just cheaper to buy pre made components from overseas than it is to reprocess recovered e-waste here.

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

In the short term it will probably mean more e-waste being dumped or disposed of in other ways. There needs to be services and collection options that are able to reach all of the community, otherwise the issue of e-waste disposal will be transferred to Local Government to deal with, with no support to ensure that disposal options are available..

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

Raising community awareness, creating more jobs

**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?**

Question not answered

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

Yes. Disposal and recovery options need to be available to the majority of residents before a landfill ban can be implemented. Rural areas would need more time as they have greater distances to travel and fewer disposal and recovery options.

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

Recovery and collection options need to be established. Communications in the top 5 languages used in the western region need to be developed and distributed so that major community groups are included in communication programs.

**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?**

1. Recovery Options 2. Access to the recovery options for each community. 3. Support to Councils and processes to clean up in case 1 and 2 are not sufficient.

**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?**

No the existing principles are clear.

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

Develop guidelines and processes for local governments to follow in managing the recovery of each type of e-waste. Have recovery options available for each type of e-waste.

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

Access to local recovery stations. Information and promotion about the program and the landfill ban. Information to be provided at transfer stations and landfills to provide disposal options to those who have had ewaste rejected - so that they are not dumped on the nearest roadside.

**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 all Victorian residents have a local recovery option. Work with retailers to provide financial support to take back old appliances when they sell new ones. New requirements to design for re-use and recovery.

**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