Managing e-waste in Victoria – starting the conversation

Questionnaire

**Submitter:** Individual 2

**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?**

Yes - it's good to see that there is a very broad range within the categories proposed and not just focused on TV's and computer waste.

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

volumes, available recycling technologies, sites and organisations/businesses, markets for products, built-in obsolescence, production of products/materials that are hazardous and hard/expensive to recycle

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

wasteful resource use (of limited resources), incorrect disposal (impact on rural land via illegal dumping, leachate from landfills), sending hazardous materials overseas for processing)

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

Positive - removal of another waste stream from landfill and the resulting positive environmental impacts, reuse of natural resources, behaviour change (perhaps some acceptance of responsibility by purchasers/users of e-waste and producers of e-waste (if EPR is also initiated/required by government), less illegal dumping

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

There are issues to consider, but not reasons not to recover e-waste - expense, technical skills for recycling materials, storage and transport

**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?**No.

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

I think the main barrier is willingness to recycle - by the industries that produce products that become e-waste (we need EPR to hold them accountable) and by consumers of e-waste (there needs to be recognition that recycling comes with a cost).

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

Yes. We live in an increasingly throw away society, and the speed of replacement of perfectly functional products does not consider the impact on the environment (of natural resource consumption or reuse, recycling and disposal).

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

Yes, but the issues and outcomes must be explained to the community and industry, otherwise there may be a backlash. There also needs to be simple support systems to allow people to participate - kerbside recycling of e-waste would make it easy; don't follow the detox your home model as this reduces ease of use.

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

Greater ownership by industry that they are contributing directly to the problem of e-waste and should be contributing to the recycling/recovery process.

**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?**

N/A

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

Yes. Regional and rural councils will require more time (and support) to implement a ban.

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

Recycling systems, drop off centres, pricing...

**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, that seems like the most realistic approach. Volumes, ability of state government to provide funding to local government, access to processing facilities and markets.

**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.

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

Financial incentives, Extended Producer Responsibility

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

It must be easy for them to participate - consider how long it took for kerbside recycling to become a social norm. E-waste recycling needs to take on much more quickly. The way to do this is to make it simple and accessible.

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

Enforcement support

**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?**

No.