



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment,  
Water, Population and Communities

# National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme



## ISSUE 5: MARCH 2011

# TELEVISION AND COMPUTER SCHEME E-BULLETIN

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National Waste Policy  
[environment.gov.au/wastepolicy](http://environment.gov.au/wastepolicy)

E-waste One-stop Portal  
[environment.gov.au/ewaste](http://environment.gov.au/ewaste)

### Message from the department



Welcome to the first edition of the  
e-bulletin for 2011. This year will see the  
establishment of the landmark product  
stewardship legislation and

commencement of the National Television and Computer Product  
Stewardship Scheme (the Scheme).

The joint government-industry Implementation Working Group and  
Stakeholder Reference Group will continue to collaborate in 2011 on  
the design of the Scheme. Both groups will continue to function until  
the product stewardship legislation has been enacted and the  
Scheme commences.

In the lead up to the launch of the Scheme, the Implementation  
Working Group will be developing a range of communication  
products. Advice as to the availability of communication products will  
be provided via the e-bulletin and all products will be available on  
the department's website [environment.gov.au/ewaste](http://environment.gov.au/ewaste)

The consultation paper on the television and computer regulations  
was released on Tuesday 8 March 2011 and is now available  
through the following link: [environment.gov.au/wastepolicy](http://environment.gov.au/wastepolicy).

The department will be conducting a national roadshow, visiting all  
capital cities and select regional areas commencing in Brisbane on  
Tuesday 15 March 2011.

Further information on the national roadshow and the process for  
making a submission is available on page 2 of this e-bulletin. Details  
are also available on the department's website at  
[environment.gov.au/wastepolicy](http://environment.gov.au/wastepolicy).

## SUBSCRIBE NOW

To keep up to date with the development and implementation of the  
National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme,  
subscribe to the e-bulletin at: [environment.gov.au/ewaste](http://environment.gov.au/ewaste)

## Television and Computer Regulations: Consultation Period and National Meetings

The Australian Government has released a public consultation paper on the proposed television and computer regulations for the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme (the Scheme). To obtain a copy of the consultation paper visit the department's website at [environment.gov.au/wastepolicy](http://environment.gov.au/wastepolicy).

The consultation paper focuses specifically on the legislative requirements for liable parties and product stewardship arrangements under the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme. The paper sets out:

- the background and policy context for establishing a national Scheme;
- an overview of the objectives and operation of the Scheme;
- key obligations and requirements that will guide implementation of Arrangements;
- a summary of the implications of the Scheme for stakeholders that do not have obligations under the Regulations.

Public input is important to the process of drafting the Regulations underpinning the Scheme. Submissions are invited in response to the issues and questions provided throughout the paper and on any other relevant issues stakeholders may wish to raise.

The closing date for written submissions is **8 April 2011**. Details for how to make a submission is provided in section 6 of the consultation paper.

Public meetings will be held in the below capital cities and regional areas.

There is also an opportunity for face-to-face discussions with Australian Government officials in a set number of meetings for individuals or organisations who have a substantial interest in the development of the Scheme regulations. Please note that these meetings are limited to half hour sessions and pre-registration of your interest is essential. The department regrets that we may not be able to accommodate all requests.

**Timetable for public meetings**

Date	Location	Time	Venue
Tues 15 March 2011	Brisbane	8:30 am - 10:30am	Hotel Grand Chancellor - 23 Leichhardt St, Cnr Wickham Tce
Wed 16 March 2011	Sydney	8:30 am - 10:30am	Mercure Sydney Hotel - 818-820 George Street
Thurs 17 March 2011	Melbourne	8:30 am - 10:30am	Oaks on Collins - 480 Collins Street
Fri 18 March 2011	Bendigo, VIC	9:30 am - 11:30 am	Lakeview Resort - 286 Napier Street
Mon 21 March 2011	Canberra	9:30 am - 11:30 am	Hotel Kurrajong - 8 National Circuit, Barton
Fri 25 March 2011	Hobart	9:30 am - 11:30 am	Refer to website
Fri 25 March 2011	Ballina, NSW	9:30 am - 11:30 am	Refer to website
Tues 29 March 2011	Bunbury, WA	9:30 am - 11:30 am	Refer to website
Wed 30 March 2011	Perth	8:30 am - 10:30am	Refer to website
Wed 30 March 2011	Adelaide	8:30 am - 10:30am	Refer to website
Thurs 31 March 2011	Mt Gambier, SA	9:30 am - 11:30 am	Refer to website
Fri 1 April 2011	Darwin	9:30 am - 11:30 am	Refer to website
Mon 4 April 2011	Townsville, Qld	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	Refer to website

For planning purposes the department requests that participants pre-register attendance at the public meetings or the bilateral meetings **as soon as possible (and at least three days before the scheduled date)** by emailing [wastepolicy@environment.gov.au](mailto:wastepolicy@environment.gov.au). Please include name, organisation, contact details and number of attendees. For those who pre-register for bilateral meetings, a departmental official will respond with confirmation of the meeting.

## Progress in developing the product stewardship legislation

In November 2011 consultation process place on the development of the Product Stewardship legislation. The consultation paper on the Bill is available at

[:environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/product-stewardship/consultation/index.html](http://environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/product-stewardship/consultation/index.html)

The product stewardship legislation is a major part of the Council of Australian Governments endorsed National Waste Policy. Under Strategy 1 of the *National Waste Policy* it has been agreed that:

“The Australian Government, with the support of state and territory governments, will establish a national framework underpinned by legislation to support voluntary, co-regulatory and regulatory product stewardship and extended producer responsibility schemes to provide for the impacts of a product being responsibly managed during and at end of life.”

The Bill to establish this legislative framework is currently being drafted for introduction to Parliament in 2011.

It was agreed by the Environment Protection and Heritage Council that televisions and computer products would be the first products to be covered under the legislation.

Regulations are expected to be made under then new legislation that will support a co-regulatory approach to product stewardship. This will involve a combination of government regulation and industry action, whereby government sets the outcomes and requirements to be met, while industry has flexibility in determining how those outcomes and requirements are achieved.

The Bill and subordinate legislation (for example, Regulations) will provide for a national collection and recycling scheme for television and computer waste. Under the Scheme, liable parties will meet their obligations by becoming a member of an approved product stewardship arrangement for the collection and recycling of end of life television and computer products.

The public consultation period on the product stewardship legislation closed on 10 December 2010. The department received a total of 46 submissions from a wide range of

stakeholders, including state and local government, industry associations, recyclers, community groups and members of the public.

Copies of submissions and a summary of the matters that were raised can be found on the department's website at:

[environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/product-stewardship/consultation/index.html](http://environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/product-stewardship/consultation/index.html).

The matters raised in the submissions were considered in developing the Product Stewardship Bill.

The department would like to thank all those who provided submissions.

## Successful television take-back arrangements in regional South Australia and Broken Hill

So far an impressive 19 shipping containers of televisions, equivalent to 8,399 units or 197 tonnes, have been diverted from landfill under a jointly funded initiative by the Australian, South Australian and New South Wales Governments. A further 26 shipping containers of collected televisions are awaiting processing.



Residents of regional South Australia and Broken Hill were able to drop off their broken and obsolete televisions free of charge in late 2010 and early 2011 to be recycled.

This initiative is being undertaken in the lead up to the commencement of the landmark television and computer recycling and collection scheme, which is due to commence in late 2011.

## Successful television take-back arrangements in regional South Australia and Broken Hill cont.

The take-back arrangements, which were set up in 19 locations across regional South Australia and Broken Hill in NSW, were originally planned to run for two months, however were extended for an additional four weeks due to the high community participation rate. The take-back arrangements were designed to coincide with the switch to digital television broadcasting across the region.

The arrangement saw all three levels of government working together to assist the community to recycle unwanted products. Zero Waste South Australia (ZWSA), the state agency responsible for waste management in South Australia, managed the take-back arrangements in partnership with the South Australian local government association and councils. ZWSA received funding from the Australian Government as well as the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (NSW DECCW). NSW DECCW contributed to funding for the arrangement to take advantage of Broken Hill's proximity to South Australia and the processing facilities located in Adelaide.

This take-back event has been a major logistical exercise given the dispersed communities and geographic distances involved in setting up a network of collection depots in South Australia. Sound project management combined with comprehensive community communications has underpinned its success.

The arrangement's success was due to the community appetite for a free recycling option for old televisions, the switch to digital television broadcasting and an effective communications campaign.



This interim arrangement has demonstrated that there is a high interest within the community for a free e-waste recycling service.

Given the strong community appetite for recycling televisions (and other e-waste), government, industry and community will need to continue to work together to ensure that community needs are addressed.

## Procurement Guidelines for Small Business

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) is currently developing procurement guidelines to assist small to medium sized businesses (SMBs) to make informed and environmentally aware procurement decisions. The guidelines which are set to be published next month will assist SMBs when purchasing new computer equipment and disposing of old unwanted products.

AIIA's National Manager, Sustainability, Josh Millen says:

*"While ICT is an enabler of improved processes, logistics, and other 'smart' improvements in the digital economy, the ICT industry is still directly responsible for 2.7% of our carbon emissions and ICT products consume about 7% of our electricity. With electricity costs going up dramatically it is no longer a trivial part of a business's overall operating cost. Appropriate choices in technology can have an impact on electricity usage and the environment in many other ways so the purpose of the guidelines are to help businesses think differently about their current processes.*

*We know that many SMBs don't have an e-waste disposal policy and also, many of them don't have a new equipment purchasing policy that includes more rounded environmental considerations. The idea behind the guides was to provide some policy and process ideas to help SMBs with this thought process. It might seem all too logical but people are busy and we believe that this would save them some time."*

## Procurement Guidelines for Small Business cont.

The following information is an extract from the guidelines and provides a snapshot of what is to be released in the coming month. AIIA suggest that the following actions should be included in a small business e-waste policy:

### 1. Reuse the equipment

- If it is still in good working order and can be utilised by other areas of the business then why isn't it?
- Donate working equipment no longer needed by the organisation to another organisation such as a charity.
- Make a list of organisations that would be willing to accept working product up to a certain age. Check what those requirements might be. Make sure that the equipment is in good working order and fit for purpose as you do not want to be dumping your e-waste on somebody else.
- Make sure all equipment that is donated has had important data erased (sanitised) in order to protect your important information. Check to see if the organisation that you are donating this to can provide this service.
- Make a list of companies that can assist with data sanitisation.

### 2. Refurbish equipment

- When the equipment starts to age (e.g. after 3 years), instead of replacing the equipment with new product, consider updating the current equipment with more memory, a new CPU, and upgrade the software to improve its efficiency. This consideration should be balanced against the need to consider whether new equipment would be more energy efficient and increase your workforce productivity.



- Consider whether a lease arrangement or other managed service structure could simplify the process of managing the assets from the purchasing stage right through to the refresh or retirement of the asset including the commitment to safer disposal at end of life.

### 3. Recycle old equipment that no longer has any other useful purpose

- Dispose of any end of life equipment if it is too old, dated or 'worn' to serve any future purpose.
- If the quantities are small consider dropping them off at one of the free drop off sites that are currently available. In Victoria the Byteback program is a free recycling service that SMBs may access. Over the course of the next few years SMBs will have access to the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme which will assist in responsible disposal and recycling of television and computer products. If quantities are greater than the reasonable limits imposed by current sites, examine the list of companies that will either collect the unwanted equipment or allow you to drop off the equipment at their facilities, charges may apply. There is a suitable list of recyclers available on Planet Ark's Recycling Near You Website: [recyclingnearyou.com.au/](http://recyclingnearyou.com.au/)
- Only use providers of recycling services which can validate their environmental credentials through experience and if possible, obtain a certificate to authenticate that the recycling service was carried out.
- If new equipment must be purchased, consider if a service provider could be utilised to manage the whole lifecycle of the new equipment; e.g. any refresh and ultimate end of life disposal. You should also consider whether they might be able to remove older assets as part of the agreement.

The guidelines being developed by AIIA are also going to include detailed advice for the procurement of IT equipment (servers, desktops, laptops, monitor and printers). For further information please refer to AIIA's website: [aiia.com.au/?page=green\\_leadership](http://aiia.com.au/?page=green_leadership).

## Harmonising with the Digital Switch-Over

John Gertsakis – Executive Director, Product Stewardship Australia

The switch to digital TV brings with it significant community benefits and considerable consumer choice. Improved picture and sound quality, as well as new channels and interactive features are some of the positives associated with digital TV.

However, major technology shifts can also have unexpected social and environmental implications, not always obvious when new products and services are conceived and deployed. The switch to digital TV is no exception.

Much has been said over recent months about the digital switch-over process and its resulting impact on more TVs entering the waste stream. Despite the absence of any official research supporting this view, there is overwhelming anecdotal evidence from the waste management industry, local councils and environment groups, which suggests that the community is enthusiastically embracing the features and benefits associated with digital TV, which in turn is contributing to the disposal of analogue TV sets. The presence of discarded TV during hard waste and kerbside collections is visually dominant, especially older cathode ray tube televisions or CRT televisions.

An industry-run national TV and computer recycling scheme, underpinned by Commonwealth legislation, is expected to be in place later this year to collect and recycle old televisions and computers. But until the scheme is up and running the priority for all stakeholders is to work towards recovering as many analogue TVs as possible, and ensuring that they are diverted from landfill.

The television industry, through Product Stewardship Australia (PSA) is working with the IT sector (AIIA), and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, to roll out the national TV

and computer recycling scheme that will collect discarded analogue (and digital) TVs once the required Product Stewardship legislation is finalised around July this year.

Importantly, the reality is that the analogue signal will be switched off in most capitals in 2013 with many regional areas being switched off in 2012. With the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme being in place sometime later in 2011, this means that many communities and consumers will be well served by drop-off locations and events throughout 2012, 2013 and beyond.

Subject to the exact timing of the Regulations being finalised in 2011, industry will also look closely at what can be done to have a recycling presence in regions where the analogue signal is being switched off in late 2011 – early 2012.

The TV (and computer) industry will continue to work closely with DSEWPac and the Digital Switchover Taskforce to harmonise implementation timelines. Our planning efforts will remain focussed on how to provide a TV and computer recycling presence across rural and urban Australia, which can divert end-of-life TVs and computers from landfill and maximise resource recovery rates.

For more information about the digital switchover process and timelines go to: [digitalready.gov.au](http://digitalready.gov.au).

For more information about Product Stewardship Australia please visit: [productstewardship.asn.au](http://productstewardship.asn.au).

### CONTACT US

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at:

[ewaste@environment.gov.au](mailto:ewaste@environment.gov.au).

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Australian Government or the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities or the Australian Information Industry Association or Product Stewardship Australia.

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