



Australian Government

Department of Sustainability, Environment,
Water, Population and Communities

National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme



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TELEVISION AND COMPUTER SCHEME E-BULLETIN

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Useful links

- National Waste Policy
environment.gov.au/wastepolicy
- E-waste One-stop Portal
environment.gov.au/ewaste

Upcoming events

Zero Waste Summit 2011,
15-17 August 2011, Melbourne

Message from the department



Welcome to the second e-bulletin for 2011. The past few months have been busy with some notable achievements to date, including the passage of the landmark Product Stewardship Bill through the Parliament of Australia and a successful national consultation on the proposed television and computer regulations. The national consultation was the first step in engaging with the community on what the regulations for the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme may look like. An exposure draft of the television and computer regulations is expected to be released in the coming months. Further information will be provided on the departments' website when available.

On 17 May the 9th meeting of the joint government-industry Implementation Working Group (IWG) took place in Adelaide. The meeting was opened by the Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water, Senator Don Farrell who re-affirmed the Australian Government's commitment to the Scheme. The IWG also heard valuable information from representatives from the Western Australian and South Australian governments in relation to on-ground take-back arrangements in those states. This information is helping to inform how the national scheme may operate on the ground.

The first Australia/New Zealand Standard drafting groups' workshop was held in Brisbane on 24 May. The workshop was an important part of developing a joint Standard between Australia and New Zealand for the collection, handling, storage, transport and treatment of e-waste. The Standard will support the national television and computer scheme by establishing performance measures relating to environmental and human health. For more information, please visit the Standards Australia website standards.org.au.

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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

Product Stewardship Bill passes both Houses of Parliament

The Australian Government has moved closer to the implementation of landmark product stewardship legislation to help reduce waste and re-use resources, with the passage of the Product Stewardship Bill 2011 through the Parliament of Australia.

The Product Stewardship Bill was introduced into the Senate on 23 March 2011 and was passed by the Senate on 15 June 2011. The Bill was then passed by the House of Representatives on 22 June 2011. The media release on the passage of the Bill through can be found at the following [link](#).

The legislation will come into effect in a matter of weeks, following Royal Assent and its proclamation in the Government Gazette.

The legislation, which makes provision for voluntary, co-regulatory and mandatory product stewardship arrangements, will provide business, communities and government with a consistent national approach to managing the impacts of certain products.

It will help to effectively manage the environmental, health and safety impacts of products throughout a product's life by reducing hazardous substances, avoiding and reducing waste (for example through smarter product design) and increasing recycling and resource recovery.

Following a decision by all Australian environment ministers in 2009, televisions and computers will be the first products to be regulated under the legislation.

Accordingly, a new industry-led national scheme for recycling of televisions and computers will be phased in from late 2011, following Royal Assent of the Product Stewardship legislation and the finalisation of regulations to underpin the scheme.

The proposed scheme will require importers and manufacturers of televisions, computers and computer peripherals to fund and implement national collection and recycling of these products.

A list will be published each year of products being considered for coverage by the legislation.



As well as televisions and computers, the National Waste Policy Implementation Plan includes action on tyres, mercury containing lights and packaging. A voluntary industry-led scheme for mercury containing lights, FluoroCycle, began in July 2010. Governments have been working with the tyre industry on a scheme focused on local recycling and markets for recycled materials. The Australian Packaging Covenant was signed in July 2010, and further possible action on packaging and litter is being explored.

Proposals for future schemes under the product stewardship framework will need to be evidence based, taking into account both the costs and benefits.

A Regulation Impact Statement is currently being prepared on a range of measures to address packaging waste and litter, including container deposit, with public consultation expected to begin later this year.

For more information about the National Waste Policy and the Product Stewardship Bill 2011, visit environment.gov.au/wastepolicy. For more information about the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship scheme visit environment.gov.au/ewaste.

The Product Stewardship Bill 2011 and accompanying explanatory memoranda are available on the Parliament of Australia website.

To obtain a copy of the Product Stewardship Bill click on the following [link](#).

Senator Farrell addresses the Implementation Working Group

On 17 May 2011, Senator the Hon Don Farrell, Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water, addressed the 9th meeting of the Implementation Working Group (IWG) in Adelaide.

Senator Farrell provided an overview of the progress of the Product Stewardship Bill through Parliament, which was introduced into the Senate on 23 March 2011.

“To help address the community’s needs and the challenges in dealing with waste, I was very pleased to introduce the Product Stewardship Bill into Parliament in March.” Senator Farrell told the group.

“The Bill represents nearly 18 months of work by the government, with valuable input from stakeholders.” Senator Farrell said.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee and this committee reported on 9 May 2011. The Senate Committee recommended that the Bill be passed, subject to a small number of changes.

Senator Farrell noted that the focus can now shift to the proposed Regulations which will be central to the introduction of the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme. The consultation paper on the proposed Regulations drew considerable interest, with more than 300 people attending the public meetings and 62 submissions made.

Under the proposed Regulations all television and computer product stewardship arrangements will have to demonstrate they meet the requirements in the Regulations expected to include:

- a collection/recycling target;
- providing Australia wide coverage; and
- having measures in place so that activities are conducted in a safe and environmentally acceptable manner.

Senator Farrell recognised the contribution of IWG members in the development of the scheme and recognised the importance of stakeholder input throughout the process.

Consultation on proposed television and computer regulations

Regulations are being prepared to underpin the National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme.

As part of this process, the department released a consultation paper on 8 March 2011 titled *National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme: Consultation Paper on Proposed Regulations*.

During March and April 2011 national consultation was undertaken. Commencing in Brisbane on Tuesday 15 March, public meetings were held in all capital cities and three regional centres, Townsville, Ballina and Bendigo.

The consultation provided an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the proposed design of the Regulations. More than 300 people attended the public meetings.

Written submissions were also sought and 62 submissions were received. Copies of submissions can be found at the department’s website at environment.gov.au/wastepolicy.

Feedback received through the consultation process is being considered in the preparation of the proposed television and computer Regulations which will underpin the scheme.

The department would like to thank all those who provided submissions and attended the public meetings.



AIIA and PSA interim standard finalised

Diana Gibson, Project Manager AIIA and John Gertsakis, Executive Director PSA

The Product Stewardship Australia (PSA) and Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) *Interim Industry Standard for Collection, Transport and Recycling End of Life Televisions and Computers (IIS)* has now been finalised and is available on request.

The completion of the IIS represents a significant body of work by these industry associations, as well as consultation and engagement with stakeholders. The IIS has been subjected to a rigorous process of independent review by KMH Environmental on the risks and costs associated with implementation, and Tim Rogers Consulting on its suitability for the Australian context.

The proposed PSA-AIIA Product Stewardship Organisation (PSO) will use the IIS as a basis for contracting with collection and recycling service providers. PSA and AIIA see the IIS as an important tool in helping to achieve improvement and accountability among stakeholders involved in managing end-of-life televisions and computers in Australia.

PSA and AIIA are about to appoint specialist

consultants to develop and deliver a comprehensive training and awareness program for interested stakeholders potentially affected by the IIS. This includes commercial and charitable recyclers, councils, retailers and others involved in e-waste management.

Information about the training program and copies of the IIS are available on request by contacting Ella Boyen at:

ella.boyen@productstewardship.asn.au.

In parallel with activities on standards, procurement and PSO establishment, PSA and AIIA are eagerly awaiting details about the content of the regulations, for example targets, timeframes and arrangement administrator approvals process. Once these details have been finalised, PSA and AIIA can plan for implementation and the engagement of third party contractors and service providers.

For more information about Product Stewardship Australia and the Australian Information Industry Association Environmental Special Interest Group, refer to their respective web sites at productstewardship.asn.au or aiaa.com.au.

AIIA releases a collection of interviews and case studies from IT users

Josh Millen, Sustainability Manager AIIA

The Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) has released a publication containing a collection of interviews and case studies. The publication *titled eWaste Recycling, Refurbishment and Reuse: A collection of interviews and case studies from organisations undertaking these activities in the Australian market*, provides examples of current business practice and arrangements for asset management and recycling of equipment from commercial IT users.

All information used in this document comes from a small selection of AIIA members who are not equipment manufacturers. AIIA also sought case studies to illustrate the way these commercial arrangements are currently conducted.

AIIA believes that the national television and computer recycling scheme can complement 'business as usual' arrangements, especially those servicing the corporate sector. This can be achieved through asset management, the remarketing of used product back into the Australian and overseas markets and the recycling of End of Life (EOL) equipment.

Importantly, a significant proportion of IT product used in the corporate sector eventually finds its way into use by the community. Under the national scheme, this will be well catered for at the end of its useful life. Four companies participated in interviews and provided their responses to a set of questions. The views expressed within are not necessarily the views of AIIA.

To access the publication please visit: aiaa.com.au/?page=ewaste_collection.

AIIA and PSA Online Survey Results Update: E-Waste Collection and Recycling Services for Televisions and Computers

John Gertsakis, Executive Director PSA

Product Stewardship Australia (PSA) and the Australian Information Industry Association (AIIA) - the two peak industry bodies representing the television and ICT industries, continue their planning and development activities in anticipation of the proposed National Television and Computer Product Stewardship Scheme.

Subject to the passing of the Product Stewardship Bill 2011 and the finalisation of the proposed television and computer regulations, PSA and AIIA will be forming a Product Stewardship Organisation (PSO). Under the proposed regulations all liable parties will be required to join an approved arrangement and PSA and AIIA will be offering this service on behalf of their members and any other liable party who may wish to join. Approved arrangements will be responsible for the collection and recycling of end-of-life televisions and computers.

The Scheme is proposed to be available progressively across Australia over a five-year period. This means that by the end of year five, the Scheme will be available in all states and territories, and will service metropolitan areas as well as regional centres and remote areas of Australia. This length of time is to allow for the practical and logistical issues, such as identifying and commissioning sites, ensuring compliance with standards and establishing appropriate governance and reporting programs, to be addressed.

An important part of the PSA and AIIA's planning and design process involves mapping current capacity, capabilities and interest among relevant stakeholders. PSA and AIIA have recently completed an online survey and Request for Information targeting local councils, regional waste groups and charitable recyclers, as a way of better understanding stakeholder activities and future potential.

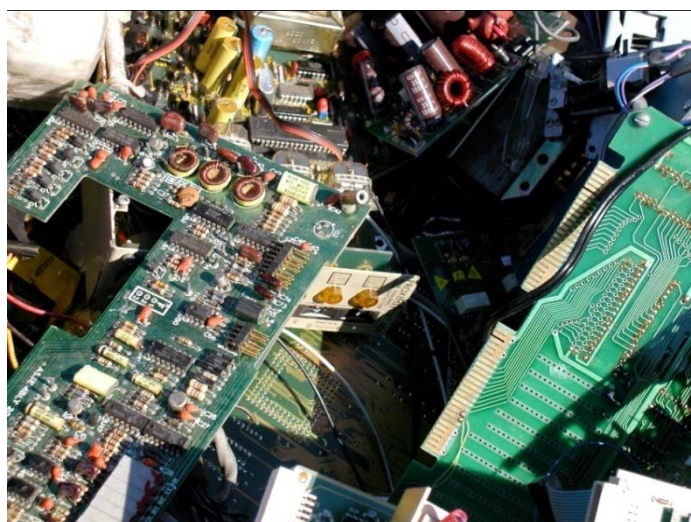
The response to the survey was overwhelming with over 120 councils, regional waste management groups and

social enterprises from across Australia completing the survey. It has provided a direct and positive opportunity for organisations currently involved and/or interested in providing end-of-life television and computer collection point services to the PSA-AIIA PSO, to inform them of their existing activities, but also register their interest in ongoing planning.

The results are an important contribution towards the joint PSA-AIIA PSO's ongoing program planning and design efforts, especially as they relate to understanding existing capacity and capabilities among councils, charitable recyclers and social enterprises. The information gathered through the online survey also starts to identify organisations that are interested in engaging with this PSO as potential drop-off and access point partners. A separate online survey will gather information and data from commercial e-waste recyclers during July.

PSA and AIIA are very grateful to those organisations that participated in the survey and were prepared to share their knowledge and views with them. As the implementation planning continues we expect to keep respondents and others updated on our activities.

If you have any queries about the survey results, or require some additional background, please contact John Gertsakis at Product Stewardship Australia: johnng@productstewardship.asn.au.



The **Zero Waste Summit 2011** is returning for a third year and attracts local, state and federal government, waste management companies, recyclers, environmental and industry associations, waste sector consultants and waste generators. Taking place in **Melbourne from August 15th-17th**, the conference will consider cost effective and realistic solutions for the diversion of waste to landfill and updates on critical regulatory developments in Australia.

Day 1 will look at regulatory updates at the federal level and strategies to reduce the amount of waste ending up in landfill, with a focus on minimising organics in the waste stream and product stewardship. Members of the Implementation Working Group will be presenting during a session on '*advancing e-waste product stewardship in Australia*' in the afternoon. Day 2 will look at progress towards state and territory waste targets around Australia, waste-to-energy technologies, infrastructure and AWT updates, and how to improve recycling and waste minimisation targets in the commercial and industrial sector.

Subscribers of the Television and Computer Scheme E-bulletin receive an extra 10% off the early bird pricing by using promo code: DSE. Register before June 30 by calling 02 8908 8555. Further information on the Summit can be found at: acevents.com.au/zerowaste2011/index.html

Visit to E-Cycle Recovery and CRT Recycling Australia

On 16 May 2011 representatives from the joint government and industry Implementation Working Group (IWG) toured the CRT Recycling Australia and E-Cycle Recovery facility in Adelaide.

E-Cycle Recovery receives used electrical and electronic products (including televisions, computers, microwaves, vacuum cleaners, telephones, stereos, DVDs and VCRs) from the community and businesses.

Products that have reached the end of their useful life are manually disassembled and separated into core materials and components. Plastics, metal and wood are then sent to recyclers specialising in the respective material. Plastics are made into items such as fence posts and sleepers. Wood is used as mulch or mixed with other waste materials to create an alternative fuel source. Printed circuit boards and batteries are sent to specialised smelters so that the non-renewable resources can be recovered.

The glass from cathode ray tube (CRT) screens is processed by CRT Recycling Australia at the same premises. CRT Recycling Australia specialises in recycling

the CRT glass found within televisions and computer monitors. The CRTs is manually disassembled and is separated into panel glass and funnel glass. The glass is then cleaned by removing the graphite and silicate conductive coating, iron oxide and aluminium oxide. This process allows the CRT glass to be used for glass-to-glass recycling where the reclaimed leaded CRT glass from end-of-life CRTs is used as an ingredient to manufacture new CRTs. The metals collected are also re-used, avoiding environmental impacts associated with mining and processing metal ores, and saving energy and water.

For more information about E-Cycle Recovery, visit ecyclerecovery.com.au and for more information about CRT Recycling Australia visit crtrecycling.com.au.

CONTACT US

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

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 Parliamentary Secretary for Sustainability and Urban Water or the Australian Information Industry Association or Product Stewardship Australia.

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