

Summary of proposed policy package



In 2014 the Victorian Government committed to banning electronic e-waste from landfill.

'E-waste' describes waste electrical or electronic equipment, or anything with a power cord or battery at the end of its useful life. It includes a range of items used and discarded at work and at home. It contains both hazardous materials, which can harm the environment and human health, and valuable materials, which are scarce and worth recovering. For these reasons, it is important e-waste is well managed.

E-waste is also growing three times faster than general municipal waste in Australia putting pressure on waste management infrastructure and the environment. Analysis performed on the flow of e-waste in Victoria projects the amount of e-waste generated in Victoria will increase from 109,000 tonnes in 2015 to approximately 256,000 tonnes in 2035.

Using the findings of this analysis, other behavioural and impacts analyses, and feedback from industry, government and community, the Victorian Government has designed an approach to managing e-waste in Victoria. The approach aims to reduce waste to landfill, increase resource recovery, and support jobs and investment in the recycling industry.

Proposed Policy Package

The proposed approach to managing e-waste in Victoria comprises both **regulatory** and **non-regulatory** measures.

Regulatory measures

The regulatory component involves:

- an amendment to the *Waste Management Policy (Siting, Design and Management of Landfills) No. S264* to include e-waste as a material banned from landfill; and
- a new waste management policy that specifies how e-waste should be managed. This will refer to the Australian and New Zealand standard *Collection, storage, transport and treatment of end-of-life electrical and electronic equipment (AS/NZS 5377: 2013)*.

These waste management policies will take effect in July 2018. Drafts can be accessed now at www.engage.vic.gov.au.

Managing e-waste in Victoria

Non-regulatory measures

The non-regulatory measures will support the new regulatory requirements and are funded through Victoria's Sustainability Fund. Sustainability Victoria is designing and developing the measures in collaboration with other key stakeholders, such as Victoria's waste and resource recovery groups and local councils, to ensure practical and effective design and implementation.

The measures are outlined below.

E-waste infrastructure support program

The Andrews Labor Government allocated \$15 million to design and implement a program to upgrade Victoria's e-waste collection network, increase community access to e-waste disposal points and expand capacity to receive and safely manage increasing volumes of e-waste.

The program will commence with an assessment of the current e-waste collection network across Victoria to identify priority collection points and gaps in e-waste collection capacity, and gauge compliance with the new regulatory requirements. The findings from the assessment will inform how and where the program funding will then be prioritised.

Network assessments: Oct – Dec 2017

Funding strategy developed: Jan - Feb 2018

Network upgrades: mid 2018 – mid 2019

E-waste education and awareness campaign

The Andrews Labor Government also allocated \$1.5 million to a three-year state-wide education and awareness campaign that builds knowledge about what e-waste is, provides information on what Victorians can do with e-waste, and highlights the environmental benefits of reusing, donating, repairing or recycling e-waste.

The campaign will provide clear and consistent information on what e-waste is and where e-waste can be taken using content marketing and press communication channels, including the SV website. Materials will also be developed to foster new behaviours in managing e-waste in Victoria.

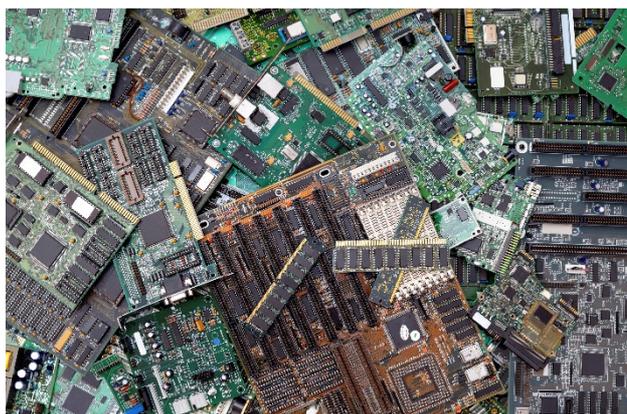


Figure 1: Printed circuit boards

Credit: iStock

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