



Operational Review of the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme

On 22 September 2014, Minister Greg Hunt MP announced an operational review of the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (the scheme) to consider options to strengthen the operation of scheme services; and to ensure its settings can continue to support positive outcomes over the coming years.

How does the scheme work, and what has it achieved?

The scheme represents a significant achievement that delivers many benefits through the recycling of hazardous electronic waste. Electronic waste, in particular television and computer waste, is the fastest growing waste stream in Australia today. Since the scheme commenced with the agreement of all Australian governments in 2011, much work has been done to deliver the scheme to the point it is at today—a co-regulatory system requiring industry to fund and deliver an increasing proportion of Australia's e-waste recycling across the nation. The scheme has already delivered recycling rates from a low rate of around 17 per cent in 2010 to 33 per cent in its first three years of implementation.

The scheme was established to achieve the following key objectives:

- Recycle televisions and computers rather than landfill them.
- Build on existing e-waste management activities across Australia, including ongoing activities by private and charitable recyclers and state and local government efforts.

- Implement a progressively higher annual recycling target to increase television and computer recycling to 80 per cent within 10 years.
- To incentivise investment, increase capacity and create employment within the recycling industry in Australia.

The scheme's role in an open recycling market is to facilitate more competitive outcomes, and address the growing community and environmental need to see less waste and hazardous material going to landfill and more products, and precious resources, being recovered through recycling.

Why have an operational review, and what will it cover?

The scheme has been running for nearly three years, with adjustments made along the way to ensure that the scheme settings remain appropriate as the market for e-waste recycling develops.

The current operational review will consider any further adjustments needed in order to keep the scheme operating efficiently as it completes its transition period in years four and five, and into the future. The review will not revisit core scheme settings such as the coregulatory approach.

Operational settings that may be considered include the appropriateness of the roll-out schedule now that we have seen how the recycling sector has been able to respond to increasing community demand. Other metrics which underpin the scheme, such as assumptions regarding the volume of products available in Australia for recycling, will also be considered.

There will be a more comprehensive, statutory review of the operation of the product stewardship legislation scheduled for 2016–17, as required under section 109 of the *Product Stewardship Act 2011*.

When will the operational review be performed, how can I contribute?

The review is being conducted by the Department of the Environment. Targeted information and consultation with key stakeholders including television and computer manufacturers and importers, state, territory and local governments, recyclers and not for profit groups has already commenced.

Information gathered through this engagement has contributed to the development of a review paper now available for comment. See www.environment.gov.au/ewaste. Written submissions are invited in response to the review process and must be received by 6 February 2015. Once submissions have been received the Department will analyse submissions and conduct analytical work to advise the Government on any recommended adjustments to the scheme to be implemented by 30 June 2015. An indicative timeline for the review process is provided below.

Preliminary timeline for the review

	Activity	Timeframe
1	Commencement of review and consultation with stakeholders	September 2014 – February 2015
2	Review paper released Publication of options paper	Late November 2014
3	Public submission process opens Receipt of submissions	November 2014 – February 2015
4	Analysis and costing of proposed changes Assessment of submissions	December 2014 – April 2015
5	Amendments to regulations drafted, if required	April 2015 – June 2015
6	Any regulatory amendments to take effect	1 July 2015

More information

For further information on the operational review of the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme please contact ewaste@environment.gov.au or visit the Department's website at: www.environment.gov.au/ewaste

For more information on the Product Stewardship (Televisions and Computers) Regulations 2011, visit: www.environment.gov.au/settlements/waste/ewaste/regulations/index.html

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