

# VICTORIA'S NEW E-WASTE BAN.

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## WHAT IS HAPPENING, AND WHY.

On 1 July 2019, the Victorian government will implement a new Waste Management Policy (E-waste) (**New WMP**) banning e-waste being sent to landfill. This fact sheet summarises the key obligations for Victorian businesses producing and dealing with e-waste.

## WHAT IS E-WASTE?

Under the New WMP, e-waste is broadly defined as waste:

- in the form of electrical or electronic equipment, devices or things (or their materials or parts); and
- the use of which is dependent on, or designed for, the generation, transfer or measurement of an electric current or electromagnetic field.

This definition includes mobile phones, computers and computer equipment, audio and radio devices, white goods, televisions, fluorescent lights, batteries, heaters and air conditioners.



## WHY?

The purpose of the New WMP is:

- Reducing e-waste
- Increasing e-waste resource recovery
- Minimising consumption of raw materials to manufacture electronics
- Minimising risk to human health and the environment
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions created in the production of new materials for electronics

# CONTROLS AND AFFECTED PARTIES.

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## STRICTER CONTROLS.

The following specified e-waste is subject to stricter control measures:

- Waste rechargeable batteries
- Cathode ray tube monitors and televisions
- Flat panel monitors and televisions, IT and telecommunications equipment
- Lighting and Photovoltaic panels

## ARE YOU AFFECTED?

**Any person or company** involved in generating, collecting, storing, handling, transporting and/or re-processing e-waste must comply with the general requirements under the New WMP.

**E-waste service providers** (a person or business that collects, stores, handles, transports or reprocesses e-waste) must comply with the New WMP.

**E-waste transporters and re-processors** may be required to comply with additional requirements specific to their role in the e-waste supply chain or specified e-waste.

## ENFORCEMENT.

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The EPA's range of enforcement powers will be greatly expanded under new environment legislation commencing in Victoria on 1 July 2020. Businesses who produce e-waste themselves or provide e-waste services should take steps now to ensure they comply with the New WMP.

# OBLIGATIONS.

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## BUSINESSES.

All businesses must:

- Eliminate or reduce the risk to human health and the environment from e-waste
- Prevent breakage/ spoilage of e-waste that might limit its suitability for reprocessing
- Only provide e-waste to e-waste service providers who comply with the New WMP

We suggest:

- Completing a supply chain audit to identify risks of non-compliant e-waste service providers and ensure transparency in your e-waste management chain
- Reviewing e-waste service provider contracts to ensure these include appropriate warranties and indemnities



## E-WASTE SERVICE PROVIDERS.

All e-waste service providers must:

- Only store e-waste for transferring, recycling or re-processing purposes
- Minimise the time e-waste is under your control

## TRANSPORTERS.

If you transport, or organise the transport of, specified e-waste you must comply with strict record keeping requirements.

You must keep these records for at least 5 years.



## RE-PROCESSORS.

In addition to complying with the obligations for all businesses and e-waste service providers, if you re-process e-waste you must:

- Maximise recovery of output materials
- Minimise the amount of residual waste
- Keep records for 5 years detailing:
  - (a) each load of specified e-waste received at your premises; and
  - (b) type and weight of incoming e-waste, type of processes used and the type, weight and destination of output materials and residual waste, and the material recovery rate
- Comply with material recovery standards

# UNSURE WHAT TO DO? CONTACT US NOW.



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