
Media Release

29 May 2019

E-WASTE BAN 1 JULY WILL MAXIMISE RESOURCES

Gippsland is preparing for the Victorian Government's upcoming ban on e-waste to landfill.

E-waste refers to any item with a plug, battery or cord that is no longer working or wanted. Most items contain valuable materials that can be recovered and reused, contributing to economic and sustainability outcomes across the state and in Gippsland.

Recovering these materials also helps alleviate the strain put on the environment by stopping hazardous elements leaching into the ground when dumped in landfill.

From 1 July, electricals and electronics will no longer be accepted in any kerbside bin and must go to a designated e-waste drop-off point.

Keeping e-waste out of landfill and recovering the elements which can be further used is a key component in Gippsland's commitment to maximising resources and minimising waste.

According to Matthew Peake, executive officer with the Gippsland Waste and Resource Recovery Group, various e-waste drop-off points and schemes already exist across Gippsland and many have been upgraded in recent months.

"Gippsland councils have been accepting electrical and electronic waste at most transfer stations for many years now and, ahead of the ban, the state government has invested \$15 million to help councils across the state to upgrade their e-waste collection and storage facilities to ensure greater access to drop-off points."

E-waste is growing three times faster than general municipal waste in Australia, this is due to increased technology trends, reduced product lifespan and consumer demand for new products.

"Most people are used to taking their larger unwanted electricals, like fridges and televisions, to transfer stations," acknowledged Mr Peake. "The same practice now applies to smaller items such as phones, electronic toys and small appliances."

"We understand that this is a change and will take a bit of getting used to, but Gippslanders have a strong history when it comes to adapting to new systems and services related to waste and resource recovery. Residents are encouraged to check with their local council regarding the how, when, where and how much of e-waste drop-off in their particular area."

To learn more about e-waste and find details of your nearest e-waste drop-off point go to ewaste.vic.gov.au or visit your local council's website.

- END -

For further information or comment, please contact:

Matthew Peake
GWRRG Executive Officer
03 5633 2744

Notes to Editors

- *E-waste refers to any item with a plug, battery or cord that is no longer working or wanted.*
- *The e-waste to landfill ban comes into effect 1st July 2019 in Victoria.*
- *The Victorian government has committed \$15 million to upgrading more than 130 e-waste drop-off points across the state*
- *In addition to the new e-waste drop-off points, Sustainability Victoria has also funded a variety of local projects to build the capacity for local collection and processing of e-waste*
- *Sustainability Victoria has launched its Take Your E-waste to a Better Place campaign to raise awareness around e-waste and how to dispose of these items correctly with support from local government*
- *Over 1 million mobile phones are discarded in Australia every year. If properly recovered, we could reuse up to 16 tonnes of copper, 350 kilograms of silver and 34 kilograms of gold.*
- *Over 16 million TVs are discarded in Australia every year.*
- *1 in 5 Australians admit to hoarding their old technology.*