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MEDIA RELEASE

Environment Ministers Hold Key to TV Recycling

Australia's leading TV companies have re-affirmed to the Federal Environment Minister – Peter Garrett – their commitment to implement a permanent, national TV collection, recycling and community education scheme that would be funded primarily by the industry.

Mr Ken Thompson, Chairman of Product Stewardship Australia – the organisation set up by the industry to run the scheme – said that *“If Governments can provide sensible and effective regulatory underpinning to deal with industry free-riders, the industry is in a position to be collecting and recycling ready within six months. This represents a major positive outcome for resource conservation, environmental protection and the community.”*

At a recent meeting with Product Stewardship Australia at Parliament House in Canberra, PSA was pleased that Minister Garrett affirmed his commitment to seeing the issue of electronic waste or e-waste resolved on a national basis, especially as it relates to product stewardship for end-of-life televisions.

Minister Garrett confirmed that e-waste and TV recycling in particular, will feature at the forthcoming Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) meeting to be held in Adelaide in November 2008.

PSA Executive Officer - John Gertsakis commented that *“the industry is expecting that the November EPHC meeting of all Environment Ministers, to very clearly communicate significant leadership on how Australian Governments can move forward on supporting and enabling a consumer-friendly TV recycling scheme underpinned by effective safety net regulation.”*

Meetings of the EPHC over the next 6 months represent an unprecedented opportunity for Governments to either act on supporting sustainable e-waste recycling schemes, or clearly acknowledging that end-of-life electronic waste is not a priority concern for Australia.

Environment Ministers effectively hold the key to TV recycling in Australia.

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