

JOINT MEDIA STATEMENT

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Attention: - News & Current Affairs
- Environment, ICT, Technology & Consumer Affairs editors, writers & presenters

Minister Garrett Delivers E-Waste Solution & Action

Product Stewardship Australia (PSA) wholeheartedly welcomes today's decision by the Environment Protection and Heritage Council (EPHC) on Federal regulation for e-waste.

The course of action on e-waste policy and regulation announced by the EPHC is environmentally necessary, socially desirable and economically responsible. It demonstrates considerable foresight.

PSA Chairman, Laurie Nolan, said, *"The Federal Environment Minister is to be commended on his foresight and technical depth, as well as his commitment to deliver a solution-oriented outcome on e-waste."*

Product Stewardship Australia (PSA), the organisation set up by TV suppliers to design and run a national TV recycling scheme, believes that the policy approach outlined by Ministers reflects a considered approach that meets environmental objectives as well as community expectations. The Consumer Electronics Suppliers Association (CESA) established PSA in 2004, and the two associations have worked collaboratively on TV recycling since 2000.

PSA and CESA believe that stringently enforced e-waste regulations, which deal with industry free-riders, will deliver significant environmental benefit and widespread material recovery. Effective regulation will also provide the necessary policy foundation to enable industry to fund and implement a community-friendly TV collection and recycling program on a national basis.

The Chairman, Directors and Executive of PSA and CESA look forward to working very closely with the Federal Minister and his Department on the development of the regulation, and ensuring its promulgation is timely and efficient. Subject to the implementation of such regulation, PSA will work towards the commencement of a national collection and recycling scheme as early as February 2011, if not earlier.

CESA Executive Director, Ian McAlister, noted that *"there will be no time to waste, and the current momentum on e-waste must be rigorously maintained by the Federal Environment Department."*

Specific recognition must go to the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, and the Federal Environment Department, who have been relentless in their co-lead of EPHC activity on e-waste. Dedicated staff from both agencies have played a proactive role in achieving a noteworthy and acceptable outcome.

The South Australian, Queensland and Victorian Environment Ministers have also been in the vanguard of this historic decision. PSA acknowledges the positive contribution that all Federal, State and Territory Environment Ministers have made to the process. The efforts of environment groups such as the NSW Total Environment Centre, Environment Victoria and the Boomerang Alliance must also be clearly recognised. Their proactive outreach on e-waste has been substantial.

PSA Executive Officer, John Gertsakis, said, *"Minister Garrett has set a most significant policy precedent on 'Extended Producer Responsibility' which government policy-makers and the consumer electronics industry should be very proud of."*

Media comment:

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