



Let's save Australia from electronics waste overload before it is too late for our environment.. and soon it will be too late.

Everyday people who purchase electronics equipment are not too concerned about the problem that their computer or printer is going to cause once it reaches the end of its useful life. Corporations and SMB's may possibly be aware of the burden their electronic waste will cause but few will understand on what scale they contribute to e-waste and what happens to it after it is removed.

Environmental groups and waste organisations across Australia now know they have a massive amount of earth to move if they are going to create the amount of awareness needed to correct the problems we face if nothing changes soon.

E-waste is a sign of our technological times and e-waste is here to stay. ABS says approximately 1.6 million computers are dumped in landfill each year. Another 1.8 million are stored away in a garage or office backroom.

The media will have to play an important role in making people understand what happens to their electronic 'trash'. What people need to know is that if e-waste is dumped or returned after a financial lease it could easily end up exported from Australia to a third world country where unsafe and environmentally harmful recycling will take place for obsolete and non functioning equipment.

The practice of exporting used and untested electronics equipment is illegal without a hazardous waste permit under the Federal Government's Hazardous Waste (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act. The Act which regulates Australia's Basel Convention obligations is aimed at stopping the flow of hazardous waste such as e-waste to such countries where mountains of electronic scrap are piling up and polluting the soil, water and people in whole villages.

E-waste contains various hazardous elements such as mercury, lead and bromine which require responsible treatment methods. Precious metals such as gold, silver, copper and platinum which are also contained similarly require effective recovery processes but not at the expense of safety and environment. Environmentally sound management of e-waste requires shared responsibility from all parties in the product lifecycle.

International company TES-AMM recently began electronic waste recycling operations in Australia and in a short time has achieved success in being the only recycler ever in Australia to have obtained a Hazardous Waste permit to export e-waste for recovery purposes. Its ethos is to minimise landfill and deal with e-waste in the safest and most environmentally responsible way possible. Such a belief and achievement coupled with its rapid growth is helping to raise its profile and improve recycling standards in Australia.

TES-AMM believes the issue of e-waste is not being heard loudly enough and although there is some development by Government, manufacturers and community, more can be done to manage the dismal recycling rates for e-waste here.

The company is undertaking a major campaign on behalf of all e-waste companies around Australia, to raise awareness about e-waste and the dangers for the future if not dealt with properly.

TES-AMM wants to tell people what their options are and to provide solutions for individuals and organisations.

If you can assist through publicising the e-waste issue, please contact Alisa Cork for more information on 0428 381 995.

In the meantime, have a look at these recent Greenpeace and USA Sixty Minutes reports which alarmingly highlight the issues which cannot be ignored:

http://www.greenpeace.org/international/photosvideos/greenpeace-photo-essays/scrap-life-pakistan-with-rob?utm_source=gpi-cyberactivist-list&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=toxics

http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/11/06/60minutes/main4579229.shtml?source=search_story

Thank you for playing a role in Australia's e-waste cause.