

E-product reuse in the National Television & Computer Recycling Scheme

ANZRP Position Statement

Preamble

As Australia and the world's population and economy grows there is an ever-increasing demand for resources and materials. To meet this demand, it becomes vital that we act smartly in how we utilise the resources at our disposal and continue to build economic and social prosperity. This also encompasses enabling growth in the production and advancement of technological and e-products and capturing and recycling the resources embedded in e-waste. Facilitating this requires a transition to an eco-friendlier economic system – one commonly referred to as a circular economy. A circular economy is one that maintains the value of materials for as long as possible and ensures materials are used efficiently across all phases of their life cycle. It involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing, and recycling existing materials and products for as long as possible. This approach is critical across all sectors of the economy and equally applicable to electrical and electronic products. Figures released by the United Nations Institute of Training and Research and published in the “Global E-waste Monitor 2024” show that a record 62 billion kilograms of e-waste was generated globally in 2022, with only 22% of this total being formally documented as being responsibly recycled. This highlights the scale of the issue and the opportunity for improved economic circularity.

Australia and New Zealand Recycling Platform (ANZRP) and our members recognise the importance of promoting a sustainable and circular economy through the reuse of e-products. Product reuse plays a valuable role in extending the life of e-products and thereby minimising waste, conserving resources, and reducing environmental impact. ANZRP and its members believe there is a real and compelling opportunity to improve outcomes and strengthen the circular economy by formally including product reuse initiatives within the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NTCRS) Rules.

ANZRP and its members support the pursuit of the following:

Including product reuse in the National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme (NTCRS)

The objectives of the NTCRS should be broadened to facilitate product reuse, extending beyond the current focus on recycling and material recovery. Volumes managed for reuse, in accordance with an established process and standard, should be considered when calculating co-regulatory arrangements' recycling targets and liable parties' liabilities. However, the administrative requirements for demonstrating reuse should not be so onerous as to deter scheme participants.