



Queensland E-Products Action Plan

A partnership between the Queensland Department of Environment and Science and the Ewaste Watch Institute

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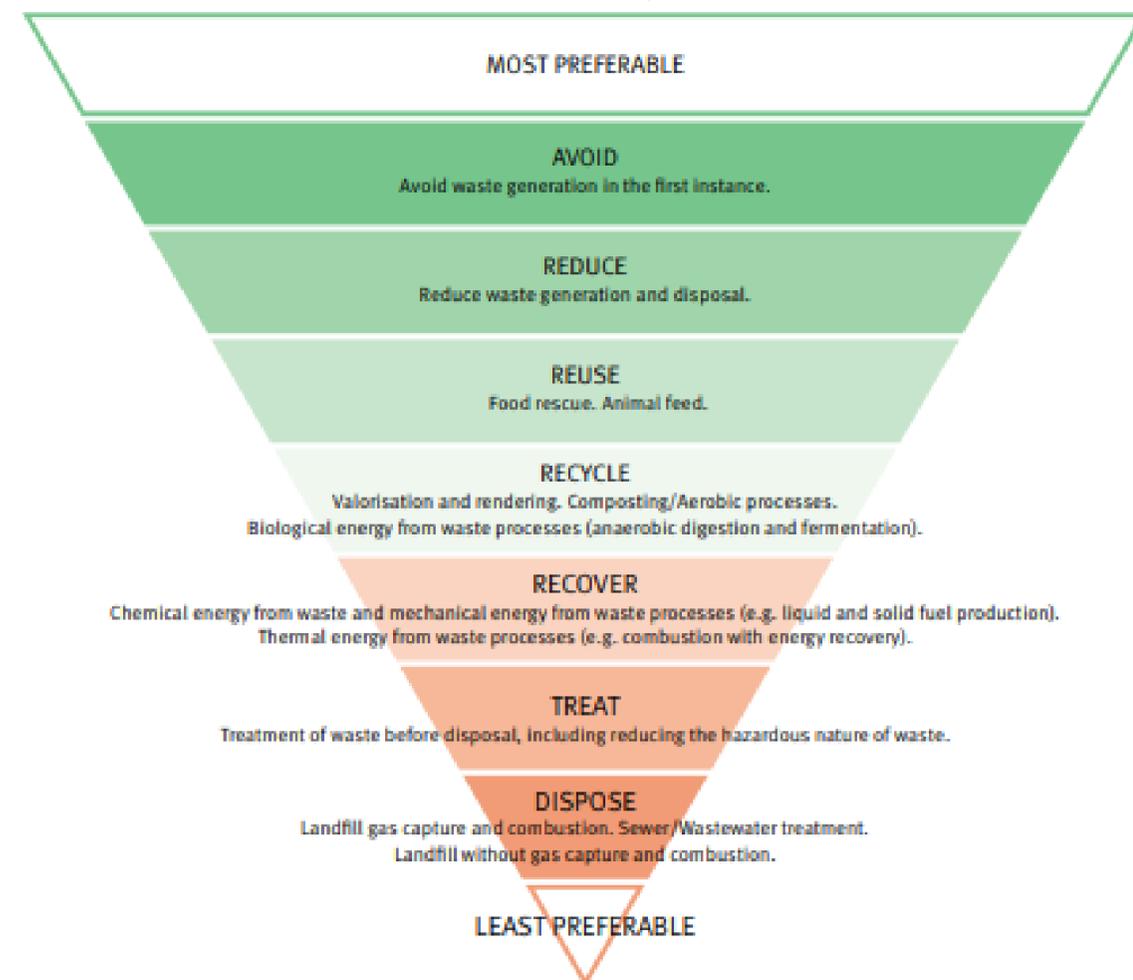
Queensland E-Products Action Plan

A plan to address waste avoidance, reduction, reuse, repair and recycling for electrical and electronic products (e-products)

Strategic Priority 1

Reducing the impact of waste on the environment

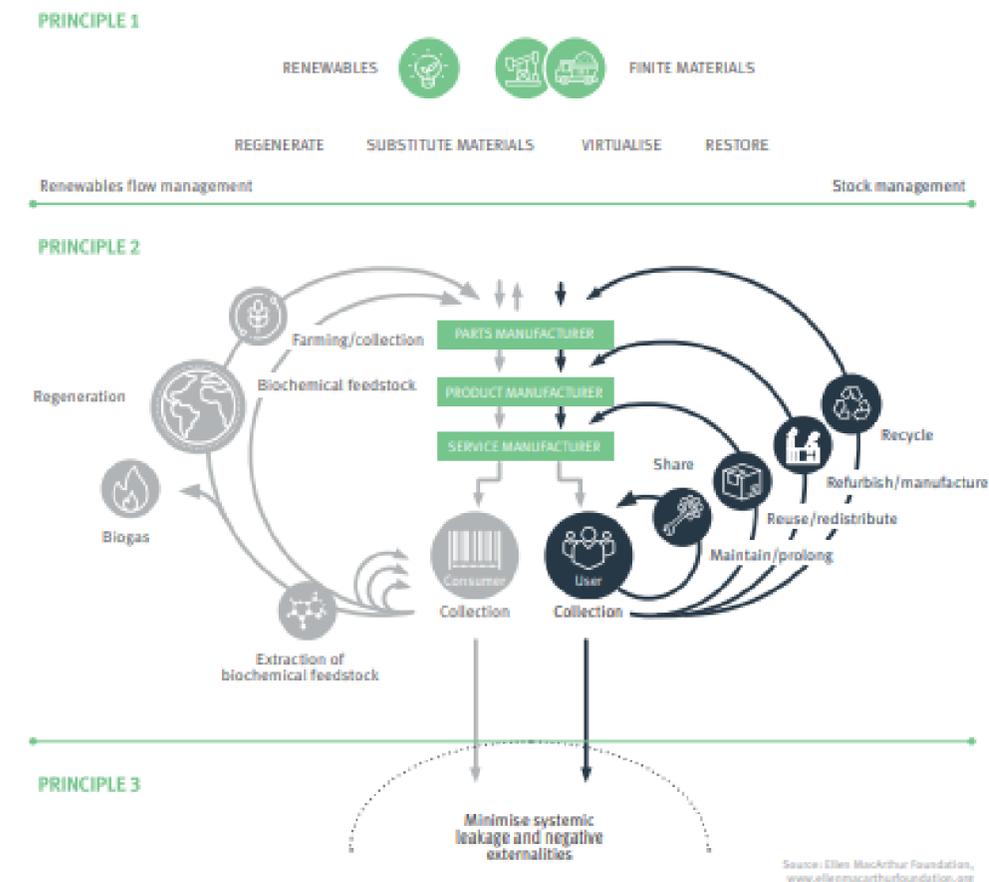
Figure 2: Waste and resource management hierarchy



Strategic Priority 2

Transitioning to a circular economy for waste

Figure 3: Circular economy principals.



Strategic Priority 3

Building economic opportunity

2050 Targets

25% reduction in household waste

10% of all wastes going to landfill

75% recycling rates across all waste types



Rethinking e-waste in Queensland



Online ideas and suggestion box:

<https://bit.ly/QLD-Action-Plan>

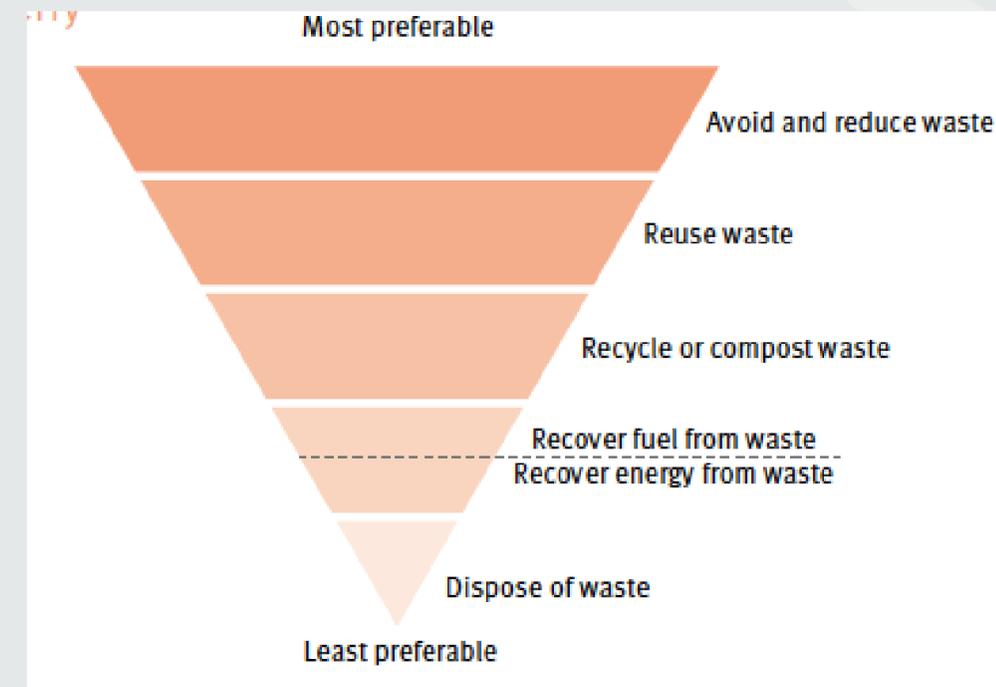
PURPOSE OF THE ACTION PLAN

How ewaste can be avoided and reduced

Direct and guide the Queensland Government, producers, brands, retailers, the repair industry, local governments, the waste and resource recovery industry, NGOs, businesses and the general public

Inform state and local government policy, procurement, funding, investment, regulation and public programs.

Identify actions across the waste management hierarchy with increased emphasis on waste avoidance including circular design, product durability, reuse, repair, remarketing and refurbishment in addition to recycling end-of-life materials.



What are E-Products?

E-Products are all types of electrical and electronic products with a power supply cord and/or battery including photovoltaic systems.

Ewaste or Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment, often referred to as **WEEE**.



Why E-Products?

“Ewaste is a fast-growing waste stream, fuelled mainly by higher consumption rates of e-products, short life-cycles, and few options for repair”

(Global E-waste Monitor Report)

Global

28 billion connected devices in 2020

excludes non-network connected products such as power-tools, domestic appliances and various battery-powered products.

Ewaste

- 53.6 million metric tonnes (Mt) **Up** 21% in just five years.
- Only 17.4% collected and recycled.
- 7.3kg per capita

Australia

We consume a lot

- 35 million televisions, computers, printers and computer accessories
- 9.3 million new mobile phones

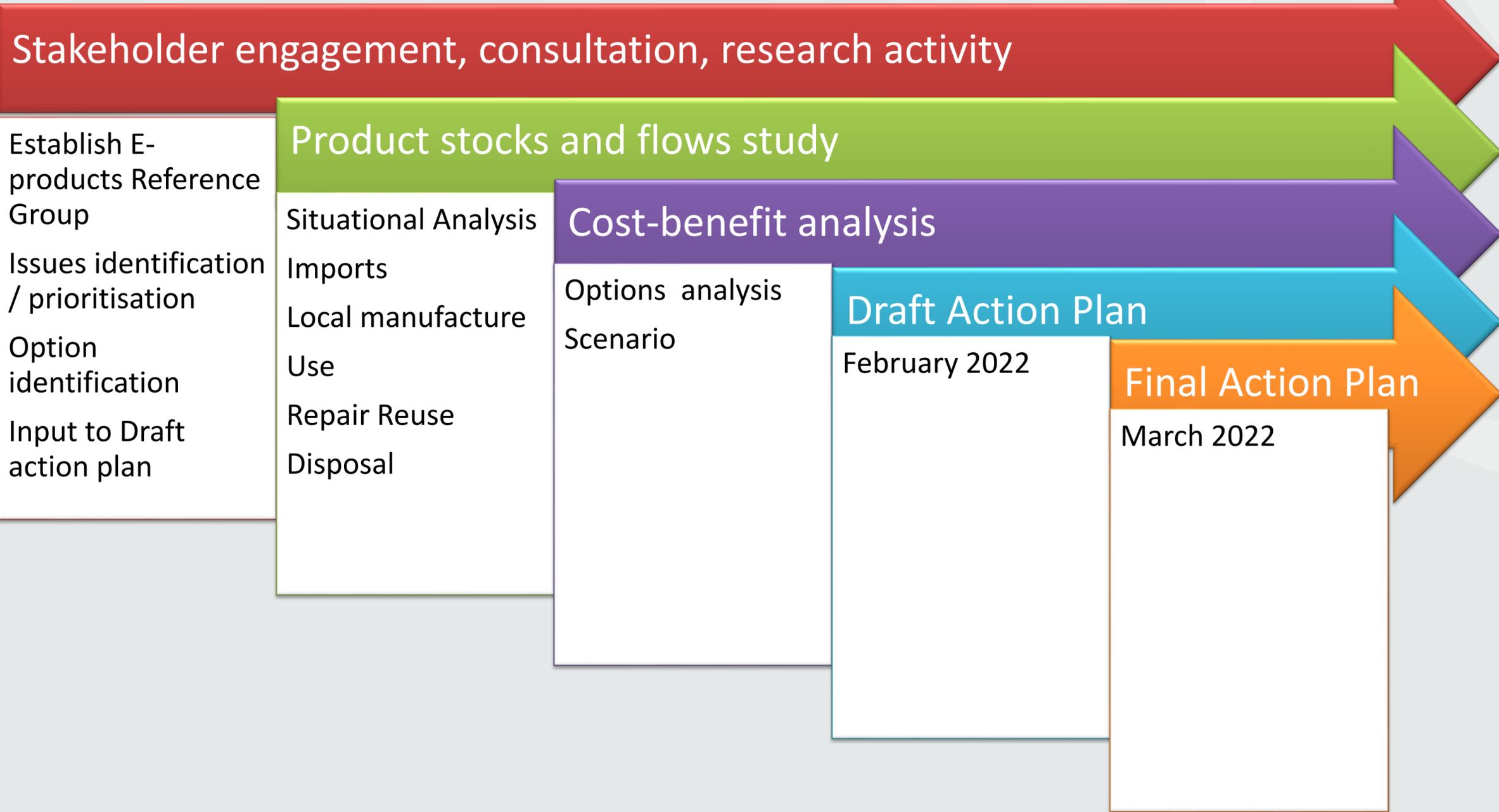
We produce a lot of waste

- 574,000 tonnes
- 23.6 kg per person
- 4th highest generators per capita

We love to hoard

- 20 > million mobile phones lying idle in homes

PROCESS TO DEVELOP ACTION PLAN



PROCESS TO DEVELOP ACTION PLAN

Stakeholder Engagement

The plan will be developed in collaboration with stakeholders who will help identify issues, solutions, and opportunities, and prioritise practical actions to avoid and reduce ewaste.

E-Products Reference Group

Ensure effective consultation with stakeholders and provide input that can inform, shape and test the action plan, while also supporting its ongoing implementation once the plan is finalised.

A sounding board to solicit a more targeted contribution of information, knowledge and experiences that are relevant to avoiding and reducing waste from e-products in Queensland.

Membership include representatives from peak bodies, industry associations, local councils, research institutions, NGOs, community-based groups and other organisations that have an active and direct interest in avoiding and reducing waste from e-products.

Products Stocks & Flows Study

Analysis how we use, reuse and dispose of e-products

- What do we buy?
- How do we use it?
- Repair, share and repurpose pathways
- Recycling collection networks and outcomes
- Ewaste to landfill

Objectives

- Establish the scale of the e-waste problem in Queensland
- The size of the industry/market
- The associated flow of products in the economy
- The potential opportunities for reuse, repair, repurpose and recycling

QUESTION - What data do we need, or you can share?

Stakeholder Engagement and Comms

Stakeholder engagement and communications objectives

- **Inform** the development Queensland's E-Products Action Plan.
- **Give voice to diverse stakeholders** with an interest in avoiding and reducing waste from e-products.
- **Increase the general level of awareness** and understanding of **what ewaste is** and **why an Action Plan** is necessary to to address key issues and harness positive opportunities.
- Provide **multiple channels** to allow stakeholders and target audience groups to understand the action plan project, its purpose and most importantly how they can contribute to its creation.
- **Maximise stakeholder** opportunities for the sharing of constructive ideas, solutions and feedback on the what Queensland E-Products Action Plan should look like.
- Collectively identify opportunities and actions that will support the implementation of the Action.

Stakeholder engagement activities

Over the coming days, weeks and months:

- Plain-English **discussion paper** to prime the conversation ... just released
- **E-Products Reference Group** ... first meeting held 7 October
- Key person / organisation **interviews** ... about to commence
- Regional **workshops** ... scheduled November to January
- **Online survey** of stakeholders going live any minute
- Online comments and **ideas 'box'** ... open now

Discussion Paper

A thought starter

CREATING AN E-PRODUCTS ACTION PLAN FOR QUEENSLAND

A Discussion Paper
October 2021

Rethinking e-waste
in Queensland



Photo courtesy: <https://www.ifixit.com/>

Purpose of the discussion paper

- Engage and inform interested stakeholders.
- Plain-English and reader-friendly
- Informative, educational, not too formal.
- Diverse audience - e.g. manufacturers, brands, retailers, industry associations, all levels of government, social enterprises, NGOs and community organisations, research institutions.
- Focus on Queensland, mindful of national initiatives and international developments
- Use of micro case-studies

Developing a plan of action - Questions

- *How can your organisation help reduce e-waste in Queensland?*
- *What is your organisation currently doing to reduce e-waste?*
- *Who do you consider are the key players or stakeholders that can make a difference?*
- *What should the Action Plan focus on?*
- *Who should pay for reducing Queensland's e-waste?*
- *How can procurement by government and industry be used to drive waste-free e-products?*

The Role of Design - Questions

- *How can the design process be influence and enabled to help deliver more circular e-products and services?*
- *Would a Reparability Star Rating on e-products at the time of purchase help to reduce e-waste?*
- *Should manufacturers be required to provide uncomplicated access to parts, diagnostics software and service manuals for specific types of e-products?*
- *Are there current examples of repair activities in Australia that we can learn from, promote and expand?*
- *Can procurement by government and industry be used to drive more repairable products?*

The Role of Repair - Questions

- *Would a Reparability Star Rating on e-products at the time of purchase help to reduce e-waste?*
- *Should manufacturers be required to provide uncomplicated access to parts, diagnostics software and service manuals for specific types of e-products?*
- *Are there current examples of repair activities in Australia that we can learn from, promote and expand?*
- *Can procurement by government and industry be used to drive more repairable products?*
- *How are people extending the life of e-products and how easy is it to get repairs?*
- *What products do people repair easier than others?*
- *Do people know where they can reuse, repair and recycle?*

Consumers, users, brands, community can lead the change - Questions

- *What role does the government (all levels) have in educating consumers and users about waste avoidance, reduction, reuse and recycling of e-products?*
- *How can producers and retailers help to educate consumers and users about waste avoidance, reduction, reuse and recycling of e-products?*
- *Is funding an investment a barrier to social enterprises and community-based groups doing more?*
- *What do people think about when purchasing e-products and whether long-term durability, repair and life cycles issues are taken into consideration?*
- *Are people aware of the quality of second-hand goods and where and how easy they are to buy?*
- *What is the demand for what is being thrown out?*

Optimising Resource Recovery - Questions

- *How can we be more effective with our collection and processing of e-waste?*
- *How can we improve community access to collection services?*
- *How can we improve local processing capacity?*
- *Are there potentially hazardous substances in e-products that should be restricted or banned?*
- *Should Queensland ban e-waste from landfill, like the ACT, South Australia and Victoria?*
- *How might the export ban on waste plastics impact e-waste recovery rates?*
- *Do people know where to recycle?*
- *What is coming out in hard waste collections and is any of this being recovered for reuse?*

E-Products Reference Group (ERG)

Purpose

Responsibilities of the ERG

1. Provide input, ideas, data, solutions and actions that can inform specific elements of the action plan aimed at avoiding and reducing waste from e-products.
2. Review drafts of action plan content and associated consultation documents and briefing notes.
3. Focus on identifying barriers, issues, risks, opportunities and options associated with avoiding and reducing waste from e-products.
4. Act as a conduit to their respective organisations, members and networks with a view to soliciting input that can inform the action plan.
5. Work constructively as a group to identify, solutions and actions that can directly and indirectly avoid and reduce waste from e-products.
6. Apply circular economy thinking and principles to all relevant aspects of the action plan and its development.



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