Electronic Waste Working Party
Project Scope

Date Submitted: February 2019

1. Issue Identification

With the change of Government, the appetite for environmentally focused initiatives has changed. The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) has set up the Waste Minimisation Fund (WMF) creating a new opportunity for companies and the industry to apply for funding for projects focused on reducing waste.

The e-waste working party is reconvening to review the industry's e-waste program. The working party has made an early assessment and identified the following areas where improvements could be made by TCF members:

- cross industry reporting on electronic waste activities.
- reviewing the existing modem recycling programs with the view to proposing an industry wide scheme.
- provide TCF submissions to Policy initiatives or legislation.

2. Working Party Project Brief

The Working Party is to manage a unified and effective telecommunications industry voice in response to consultation on electrical and electronic waste (e-waste). The Working Party is also to explore the feasibility of working collaboratively to develop a recycling programme that allow members to consolidate costs and minimise environmental harm and increase the volume of recycling; which could ultimately meet standards necessary to receive funding under the WMF.

3. Project Objectives and Scope

The scope of this Working Party is to:

1. Investigate **telecommunications e-waste streams** that could benefit from a collaborative approach, specifically:

- **Modems and other customer premises equipment** sold or provided to consumers by TCF Members. The number of excess modems has grown as consumers have made the shift from between broadband access technologies. Many of these modems are still sitting in people's homes as they have perceived value to the consumer.

- **Network waste** although this is much less visible to consumers, the volume of waste material resulting from the build, management or upgrade of telecommunications networks is significant.

  Mobile phones, mobile phone accessories and tablets are outside the scope of this work. These products are, or will be covered by the existing RE:MOBILE Product Stewardship Scheme.

2. Participate in consultation on e-waste on behalf of the TCF regarding telecommunications e-waste, specifically modems.

The objectives of the Electronic Waste Working Party are to:

1. Review current industry recycling programs industry waste streams and identify possible industry-wide reporting, enabling comparison and data analysis.
2. Develop an industry-wide electronic waste disposal programme that could meet standards for WMF with a view to obtaining funding to support the programme.

4. Deliverables

The deliverables from this project are:
1. A recommendation on whether and how the TCF can develop industry wide recycling programmes suitable for the waste minimisation fund.
2. Identify industry-wide reporting and documentation of electronic waste recycling processes to enable data analyses.
3. TCF submissions to Policy initiatives relating to electronic waste.

5. Working Party Membership

It is proposed that all interested TCF members would be welcomed on the working party. As sponsors of this paper Vodafone, Chorus and Spark have agreed membership from their organisations.

	ORGANISATION	NAME
Project Co-Leads	TBA	TBA
Forum Administrator	TCF	Frances Barrett
Working Party Members	Vodafone	Rachel Monks
	Chorus	Roman Judd
	Spark	Graeme Harrington
	UFF	Taj Aujla

Other parties will be invited to participate in specific meetings and workshops as needed to ensure broad industry input into options for an industry wide recycling programme.

6. Resource Requirements

During this phase, the only resource requirement is expected to be Forum Administrator support. This is estimated to be 50 hours for the next six months.

7. Proposed Timeline

The following timeline is proposed:

Date	Action
January 2019	Update E-Waste Working Party Project Scope
February 2019	Finalise and have Project Scope approved.
February-March 2019	Review current telecommunications industry e-waste recycling activities by segment in this order: 1. Consumer CPE equipment 2. Network Waste
April 2019	Recommendation on whether the TCF should develop an industry wide consumer modem recycling and education programme.
April onwards	To be identified following outcome of recommendation and status of MfE and any other e-waste consultation.

8. Recommendation

It is recommended that the TCF Board:
- endorse this project proposal;
- and agree that the E-Waste Working Group reconvenes.