



**Statement from Laurence Zwimpfer, Chairperson of the Computer Access New Zealand Trust and organiser of 'eDay' in response to 60 Minutes' e-waste feature aired 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009.**

I watched with interest your feature entitled "The Electronic Wasteland" on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and welcome the media focus on the growing problem of e-waste throughout the world. I hope the feature provided New Zealanders with a real understanding of why it is important to recycle e-waste responsibly and in an environmentally sustainable way.

The Computer Access New Zealand Trust (CANZ), which runs New Zealand's annual free nationwide computer recycling event, eDay, has gone through a lengthy process to identify and secure accredited recycling partners that use accepted international practices for recycling e-waste. In 2007 we partnered with a Singapore-based company, TES-AMM and in 2008 a South Korean company, DBI Tech. Both these companies have been certified to the international ISO 14001 standard, which means they have had to satisfy the International Standards Organisation (ISO) that their recycling processes meet international standards, including the safety of their workers. Both use sophisticated waste extraction processes to recover over 95% of the materials used in computers for reuse, including precious metals such as copper and gold.

Our eDay team found that New Zealand does not yet have comprehensive recycling facilities that can compete with the automated and very efficient processes used by off-shore recyclers.

"The Electronic Wasteland" referred to international legislation controlling the shipment of hazardous waste, including e-waste. This is known as the Basel Convention, which New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea are all signatories to. Permits are only issued to recyclers if they can satisfy authorities in both the source and destination countries that e-waste transported between countries will be processed in facilities with appropriate environmentally sound processes and management.

In New Zealand, the Basel Convention is administered by the Ministry of Economic Development, and with the support of the New Zealand Customs Service, only e-waste with a Basel permit can be exported. Unfortunately, this is not case for some other developed countries such as the United States that have not signed up to the convention and this certainly appears to be contributing to the unacceptable practices so graphically portrayed in your "Electronic Wasteland" feature.

We hope that New Zealanders will continue to support eDay in the knowledge that their old computer equipment is being recycled responsibly and not polluting someone else's environment.

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