



COMMUNITY INFORMATION SHEET

Decommissioning & end-of-life

What happens when the technology — or the facility — moves on

What's the concern?

Technology cycles are short, and people ask what happens when equipment is replaced or a facility eventually closes — whether the community is left with a stranded building or a clean-up problem.

The facts

Inside a facility, equipment is refreshed regularly, which raises the question of responsible handling of e-waste, batteries, refrigerants and fuel. At the end of a facility's life, good practice is to remove plant and hazardous materials, rehabilitate or adapt the site, and avoid leaving a single-purpose structure stranded. For very large facilities, a decommissioning and rehabilitation commitment — sometimes backed by a bond — gives the community confidence.

What good practice looks like

- Responsible handling and recycling of equipment, batteries, refrigerants and fuel through the facility's life.
- A decommissioning and site-rehabilitation plan for end of life (and a security/bond for large facilities).
- Design that allows the building to be re-used or adapted rather than stranded.
- Clear accountability for clean-up and rehabilitation.

Questions you can ask

- How is e-waste, battery and refrigerant disposal handled over the facility's life?
- Is there a decommissioning and rehabilitation plan for end of life?
- Who is responsible for clean-up, and is it secured?

Want to know more? Your local council, the EPA Tasmania and ARPANSA publish further information. This sheet is general information, not medical, legal or planning advice; figures are indicative and a specific proposal is confirmed by qualified assessment.