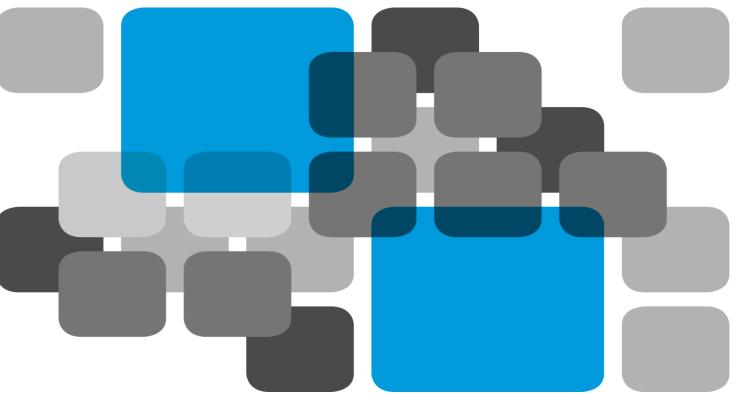




## WEEE – a copper market conundrum

**Rebecca Gordon** 

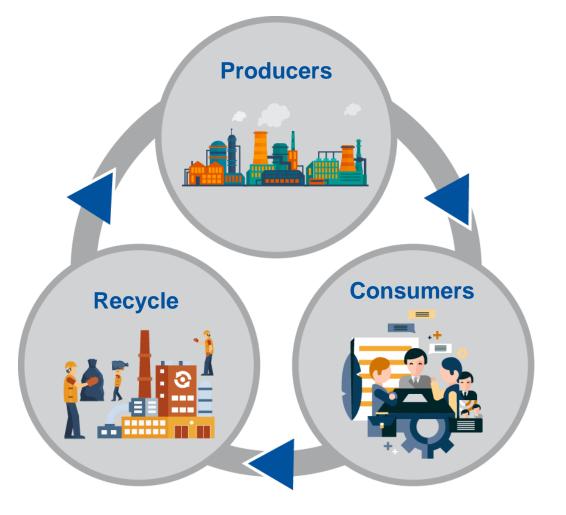
**Divisional Director, CRU Consulting** 



June 2019



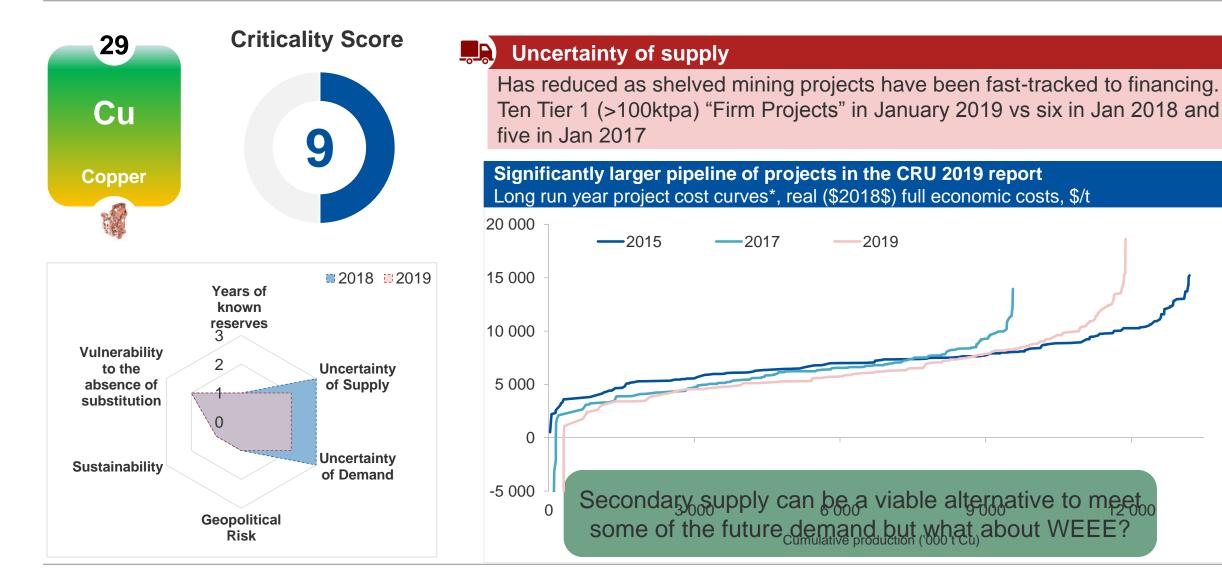
#### WEEE recycling challenges faced by all participants



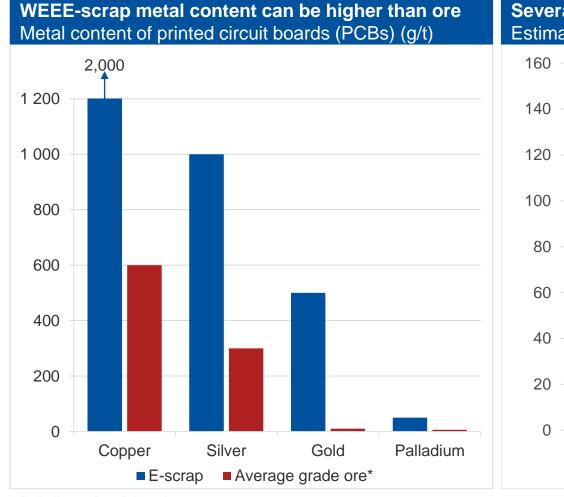
- Global WEEE volumes increasing:
  - o collection legislation,
  - o electronics market penetration,
  - product innovation, and
  - o reduced product lifespans
- Appropriate waste management crucial:
  - o mitigating environmental impacts
  - o addressing materials criticality
- Viability requires e-waste recycling revenues exceed costs of collection, transportation and processing:
  - Precious metals being thrifted out and reduced by miniaturisation
  - End uses consuming secondary materials limited
  - Stricter environmental compliance costs incurred
- Much WEEE lost to landfill, stockpiled or exported



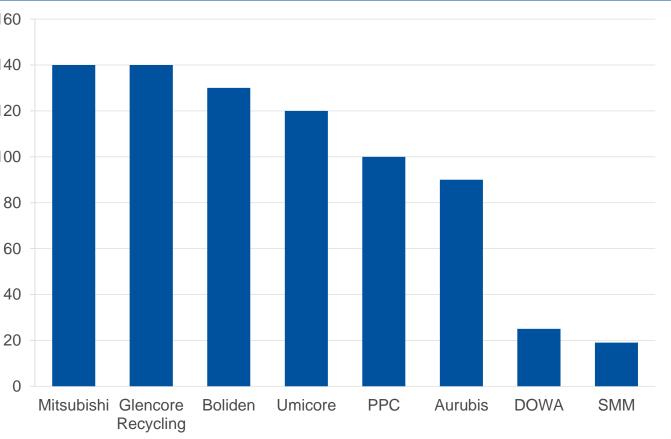
#### Copper: criticality still at 9 so further action needed



#### WEEE scrap is rich source of metals, but high barriers to entry



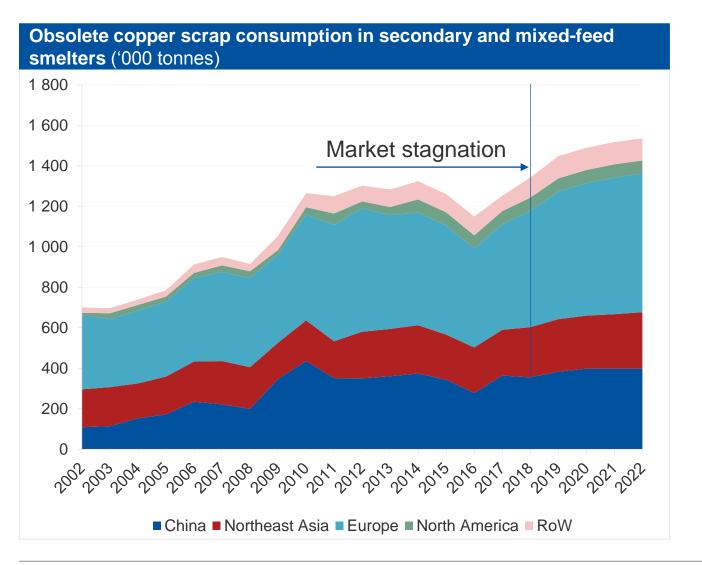
Several major players dominate E-scrap processing Estimated E-scrap capacity in gross weight 2018, '000t



\* Palladium = Pt + Pd grade

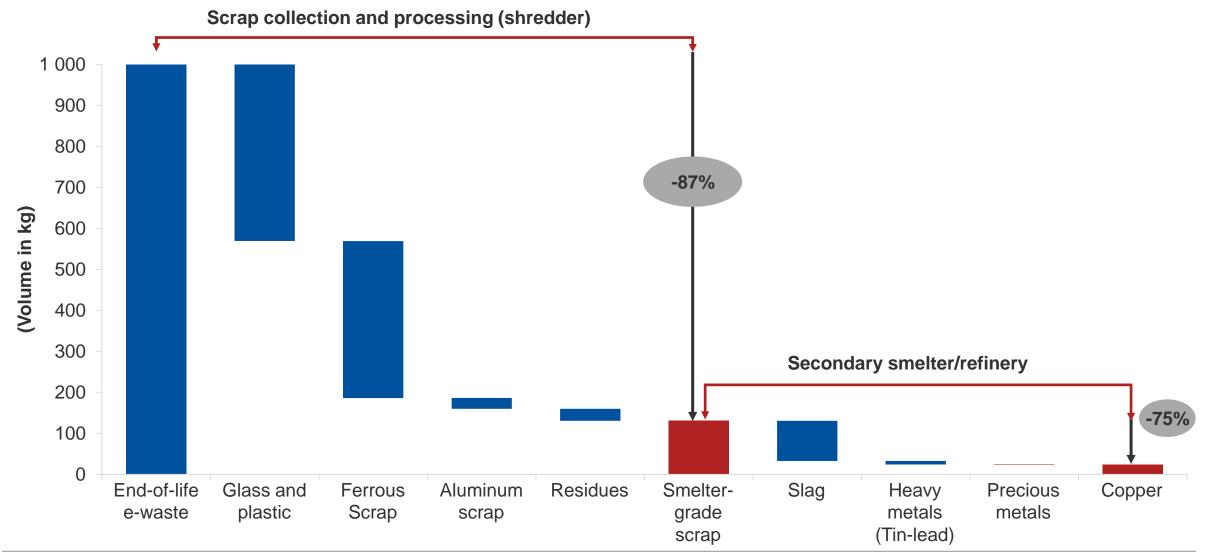


#### Obsolete scrap consumption increasing too slowly



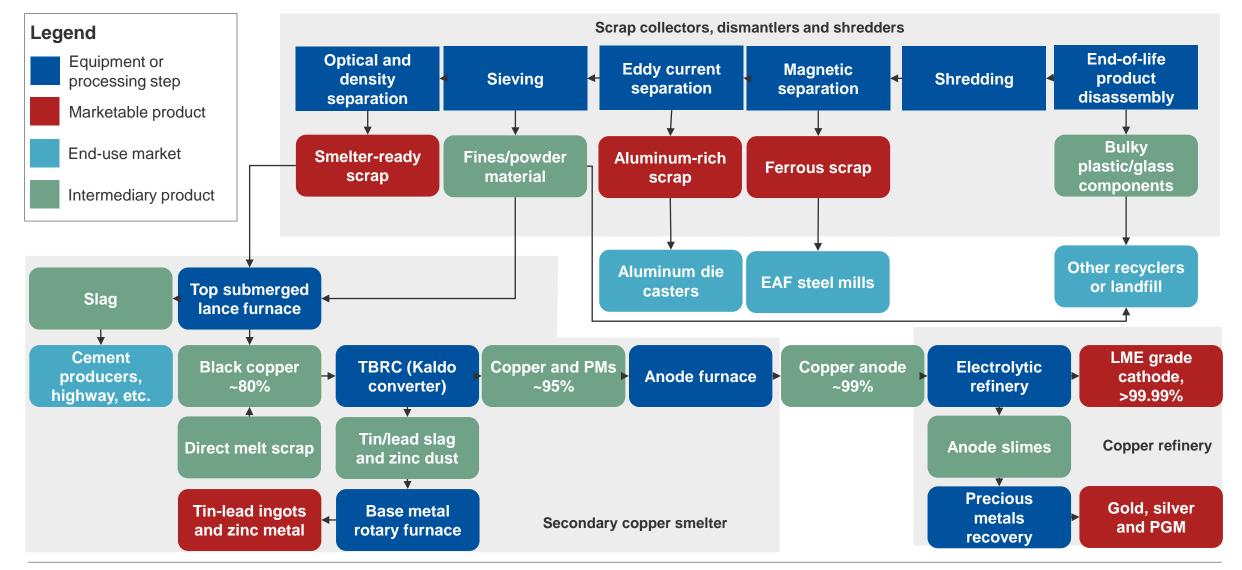
- **Europe** largest obsolete scrap-consuming region:
  - well-established smelters, complex waste streams focus on WEEE & low-grade Cu scrap
- **Chinese** obsolete scrap processing capacities have increased slightly in recent years
  - most planned smelters are high end concentrate-only or mixed-feed smelters
  - significant technical barriers for low grade feed smelters
  - o scrap collection infrastructure in its infancy
- Japan & South Korea several secondary smelters
- North America only one secondary smelter and no operation that can effectively process lower grades of scrap
- Effective obsolete scrap processing capacity outside of these regions limited and likely to remain low

#### Yield can be low starting with 1 tonne of end of life WEEE material





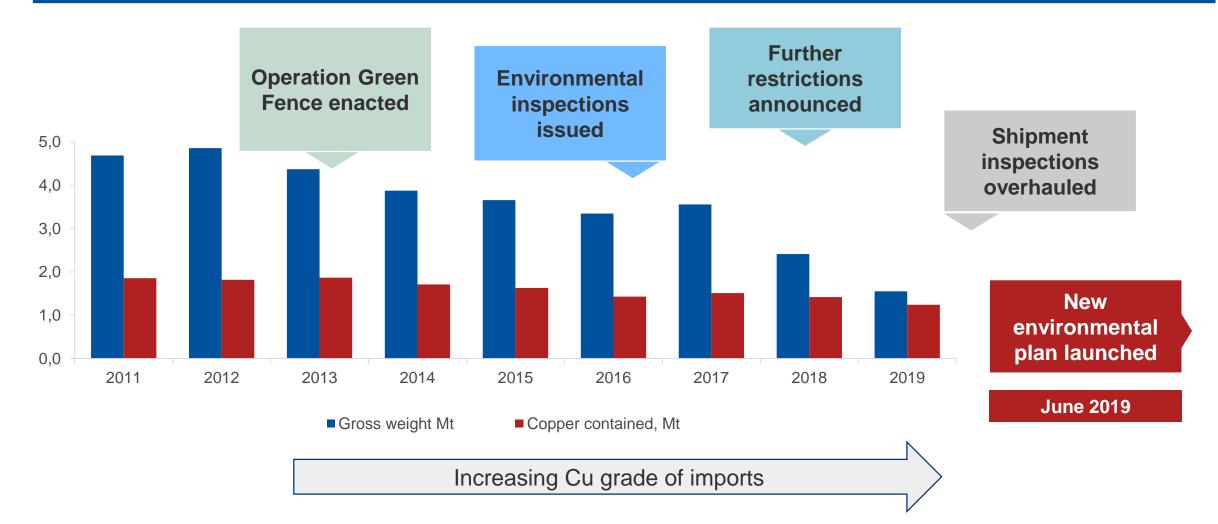
#### And the process is not simple...





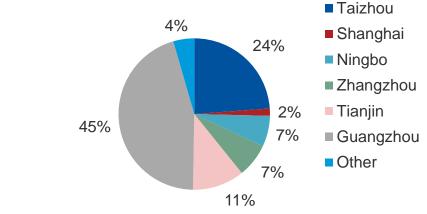
#### Another challenge is the changing regulatory framework

Chinese Cu Scrap imports fall as Chinese legislation is systematically tightened, 2011-2019, Mt

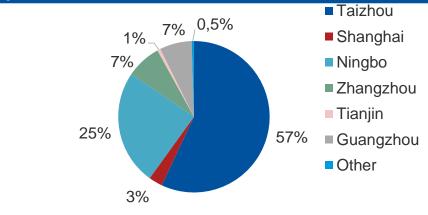


#### Regulation and inspection has changed landscape in China





Approved Category 7 import quotas by province - 2018

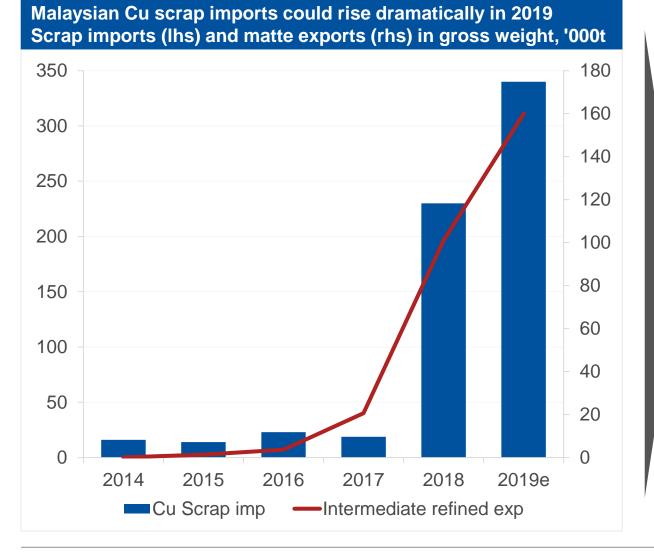




- Tianjin District 7% imports 2017
- Major player: China Metal Recycling (CMR)
- Highly fragmented, labour intensive
- · Licenses revoked
- 2018: ~<3% imports
- Hangzhou District: 17% imports 2017
- Major processor: Zili Copper Industry Co
- Mostly processes insulated wire & low grade residues for blister production
- Most licenses renewed
- 2018: ~23% imports
- Ningbo / Taizhou District: 25% imports 2017
- Major player: **Chiho Group**, Taizhou, China's largest scrap processing facility
- Highly mechanized dismantling & sorting, well managed facilities
- 2018: ~45% imports
- Guangzhou District: 42% imports 2017
- Major port adjacent to Hong Kong
- 75% licenses revoked
- 2018: ~<20% imports



### Malaysia is importing Cu scrap previously destined for China



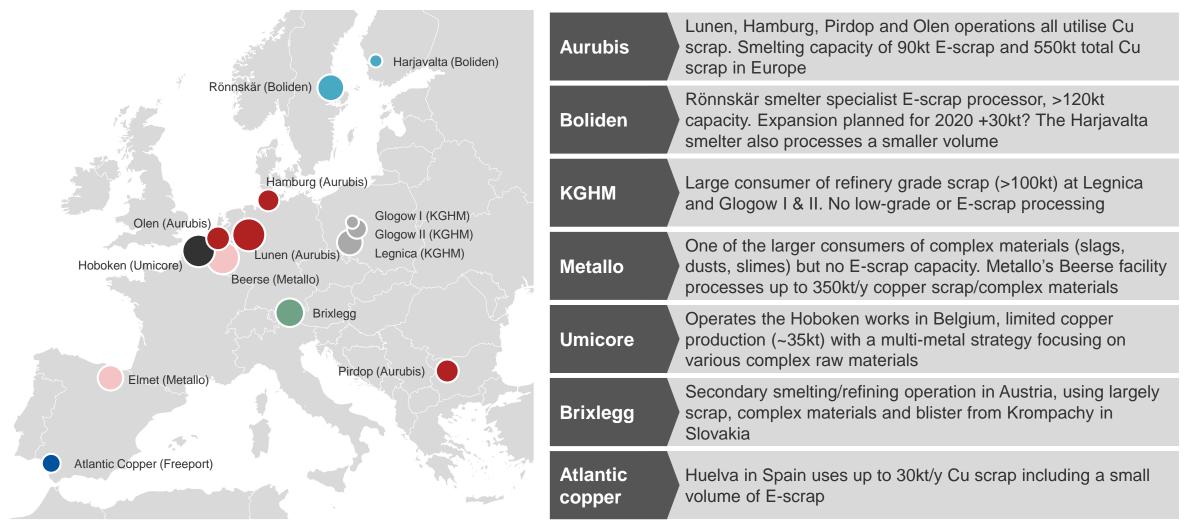
#### Malaysia:

- Emerged as a key importer of low-grade scrap in 2018 mostly from USA
- Could grow to >340kt in 2019, on the back of strong imports in the opening months of the year
- Reports that there are now several facilities of >100kt/y processing capacity in Malaysia, gross weight
- Exports to China of what we believe to be processed scrap (under the HS code for Matte) exceeded 100kt in 2018; up 500% on 2017 levels
- E-scrap pollution possible from unregulated and illegal processors
- Government considering a ban on this industry

# Who will process this material?



#### Europe is the best served market for copper scrap recycling



Size of bubble denotes volume of secondary raw materials used.



### Conclusions

CRU

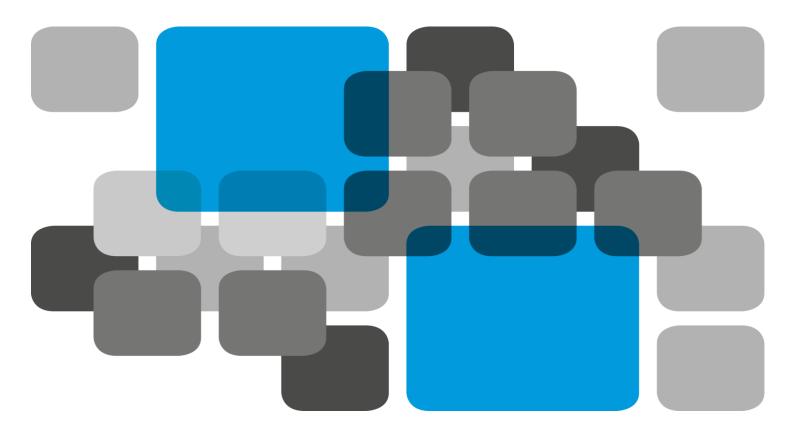
- 1. To meet the growing demand for copper from the low-carbon economy we need both primary copper mining and post-consumer recycling
- 2. The importance of sustainable recycling grows as we consume more materials and we seek to avoid unnecessary primary production
- 3. Much of the material we need for the secondary industry is already in the hands of consumers
- Each region has its own challenges with Europe well advanced in recycling capacity but short of postconsumer waste and developing countries seeking to create economic, safe and environmentally sustainable recycling industries
- 5. Consumers, scrap dealers / collector, recyclers and primary producers would benefit from considering the full life cycle of their products by:
  - designing in recyclability
  - sharing best practice
  - developing cost effective recycling technology and
  - regulating to ensure post consumer waste is reprocessed safely





THANK YOU

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