

# DOWNNS AND SURAT BASIN ALLIANCE OF COUNCILS

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C/- Goondiwindi Regional Council  
LMB 7  
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File: Waste Management  
Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011

**OFFICE  
COPY**

The Research Director  
Environment, Agriculture, Resource &  
Energy Committee (EAREC)  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: SUBMISSION – WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BILL  
DOWNNS AND SURAT BASIN ALLIANCE OF COUNCIL (“DASBAC”)**

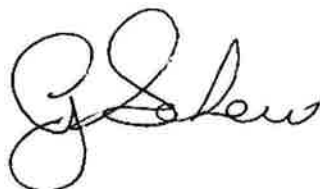
I refer to the email letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> August 2011 on the above matter.

**Attached** is a copy of DASBAC Submission and Minutes of 30<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

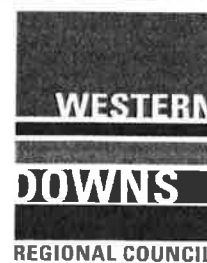
Please be advised that Council's Mayor, Councillor Graeme Scheu, will be representing DASBAC at the hearing on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

Could you please advise us of a suitable time on the day for the personal representation?

Yours faithfully



Cr Graeme Scheu  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**DASBAC Group of Councils**



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## WASTE REDUCTION & RECYCLING BILL 2011 SUBMISSION

### **History:**

The DASBAC GROUP of Councils consist of 5 Regional Councils including:

Toowoomba Regional Council  
Southern Downs Regional Council  
Western Downs Regional Council  
Goondiwindi Regional Council  
Maranoa Regional Council.

With the exception of Maranoa Regional Council, all are affected by the Waste Levy Legislation.

At a DASBAC meeting held at Dalby on July 30 (Minutes Attached), councils discussed the proposed levy and were unanimous in their conclusion that Rural Regional Councils like ours would simply require a transition period to enable this Waste Levy to be implemented. It was obvious that there were varying degrees of transition required pending on "Life of Tip", location of tip and supply of essential services eg. Power and access. In some cases, an entirely new landfill may be required as the current landfill draws close to its use by date.

It was also agreed that in order to implement the proposed levy, enormous costs to upgrade infrastructure would be required and the \$12m mooted at that stage would barely cover one council let alone the entire State of Queensland.

Clarification on Green Waste and Agricultural Waste was also required.

In general, none of the DASBAC Councils supported the existing proposal of DERM.

### **To Date:**

Councils have since received notification that this new legislation will be implemented from December 1 which is contrary to all of the arguments raised by this group of councils.

Councils acknowledge the recent lead in period offered in some minor cases but still wish to highlight the **hardship and extra expense** that will be imposed on our group of councils.

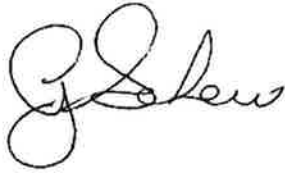
### **Request of the Hearing:**

1. Our opinion has not changed. Unless substantial upfront funding is afforded to councils, the concept of improved waste management practise over the state of Queensland will not see any improvement. Councils simply are not in a financial position to self-fund this State Imposed Tax. It resembles the classic version of cost shifting to Local Government.
2. Our larger style Regional Councils with massive areas simply need more time to manage the problem and come up with acceptable solutions to improve the Waste Management in the State and in particular our own Regions. We believe that it is essential that Rural Regional



Councils like ours should be afforded an Implementation period, which may vary from Site to Site.

3. We believe the implementation is totally non feasible under the current framework. We consider that each council should be required to submit a Waste Management Strategy addressing the areas of concern to each council area and then implement the Waste levy – if required. It is council's opinion that the current proposal will do nothing to improve or reduce the current Waste Problem that exists.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Scheu'.

Cr Graeme Scheu  
**CHAIRMAN**  
**DASBAC Group of Councils**

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## MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 30 JULY 2010 AT 10.00AM HOSTED BY WESTERN DOWNS REGIONAL COUNCIL 107 DRAYTON STREET, DALBY

### In Attendance

Cr Graeme Scheu	Mayor – Goondiwindi Regional Council
Cr Ron Bellingham	Mayor – Southern Downs Regional Council
Cr Ray Brown	Mayor – Western Downs Regional Council
Cr Rob Loughnan	Mayor – Maranoa Regional Council
Cr Rick Kearney	Deputy Mayor – Goondiwindi Regional Council
Cr Mick Cosgrove	Deputy Mayor – Western Downs Regional Council
Cr Paul Antonio	Deputy Mayor – Toowoomba Regional Council
Cr Peter Blundell	Deputy Mayor – Southern Downs Regional Council
Mr Ken Gouldthorp	CEO – Toowoomba Regional Council
Mr Stuart Randle	CEO – Maranoa Regional Council
Mr Rod Ferguson	CEO – Southern Downs Regional Council
Mr Phil Berting	CEO – Western Downs Regional Council
Mr Peter Stewart	CEO – Goondiwindi Regional Council

### Apologies

Cr Peter Taylor	Mayor – Toowoomba Regional Council
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### Alliance Agreement

Members were asked to provide comments / feedback on the Alliance Agreement previously circulated for endorsement. Cr Loughnan queried potential participation of Balonne Shire Council due to Maranoa Regional Council's involvement with that entity. It was confirmed that any other Council can be invited to participate or attend meetings of DaSBAC where issues are relevant.

### Proposed Waste Levy

Ms Christine Blanchard, Principal Advisor, LG Assist addressed the meeting to provide an overview and obtain feedback on issues associated with the proposed waste levy introduction by the State Government. A submission is to be made by LGAQ to the State on this matter.

Discussions highlighted the following points:

- The Infrastructure Assistance Program will provide \$12M towards infrastructure associated with the waste levy – weighbridges, height bars, fencing etc. It was noted that this amount will be insufficient to meet all requirements across affected areas of the State.
- The levy income is proposed to be divided into 3 programs with all local governments eligible to apply for some projects (not just those areas required to collect the levy). A general feeling among members (and especially Toowoomba) was that if a local government collects the levy they should be in a position to utilise those particular funds for relevant purposes. The actual funding distribution is a major concern to the group.
- Farmwaste is currently classified as commercial waste and subject to the levy charges. Southern Downs Regional Council indicated that this may pose a significant issue for their region.



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- A proposed start date of 1 July is simply not possible to achieve for the majority of Councils present at the meeting. The consensus was that a 5 year deferrment be applied to allow councils to prepare appropriate infrastructure and have relevant waste management plans in place prior to commencement.

Ms Blanchard advised that she would incorporate the groups comments into the submission to be completed. A copy of the submission will be forwarded when it becomes available.

## Proposed Regional Economic Development Organisation

The Chair requested general feedback on the proposal for the formation of a Regional Economic Development Organisation. All Councils confirmed that they will be contributing to the business study to identify the scope and structure of the organisation however final membership will be dependent on a number of factors.

## Border Railway Project

In recognition of its potential as a nationally significant piece of infrastructure, The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, Hon Anthony Albanese MP, has granted Major Project Facilitation (MPF) status to the Border Railway Project being advanced by the Australian Transport and Energy Corridor Ltd (ATEC).

## Forestry Closures

The Chair advised the meeting that the State Government plans to cease cypress pine harvesting operations in ARCS Class 1 areas as of 30 September 2010. The areas classified as ARCS 1 include:

- Barakula State Forest;
- Bringalily State Forest;
- Bracker (Yelarbon) State Forest; and
- Pluto Timber Reserve (Tambo)

It is noted that an area within Baraklua will remain available for some period (until 2017 or 2020).

***For Action: DaSBAC will lobby the State Government to review the proposed closure of cypress pine logging of ARCS Class 1 areas.***

## Offer to Address Meeting – Deputy Premier and Minister for Health

The Chair advised the meeting that Hon Paul Lucas MP, Deputy Premier and Minister for Health has offered a group deputation to discuss any health issues across the wider region. Members acknowledged the Minister's offer and agreed that at this point in time there were no key health issues but would further consider the Minister's offer at a later date.

## Royalties for Regions

Cr Mick Cosgrove provided a brief update on the recent Royalties for Regions seminar hosted by Western Downs Regional Council, advising the day was very successful and informative.



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## Next Meeting Date

It was confirmed that the next meeting of the DaSBAC will be hosted by Toowoomba Regional Council, commencing at 10.00am on Monday 29 November.

## Meeting Closure

The meeting closed at 12.20pm.

