

## **Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023**

**Submission No:** 11  
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**Publication:**  
**Attachments:**  
**Submitter Comments:**

10 March 2023

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Committee Secretary  
Health and Environment Committee  
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Dear Committee

### **Waste and Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill (the Bill).

Cleanaway congratulates the Queensland Government for legislating the State's transition to a domestic circular economy. Achieving a circular economy requires shifts in government policy, investment in technology and infrastructure, and a fresh look at how we design and deliver products and services. It requires governments, industry and communities to work together to overcome common barriers.

#### Clean Earth Amendment

While the circular economy continues to develop, along with the technologies to support it, residual wastes - that are currently unfeasible or uneconomic to recycle - will remain. Well-managed engineered landfills will continue to play an important role in managing society's waste for the foreseeable future.

The use of clean earth as daily cover for a landfill site is an essential practice used across Australia to manage emissions pathways and provide a safe, effective and compliant landfill operation. Daily cover reduces leachate generation, odour, windblown litter and vermin.

Cleanaway supports the policy position of removing the blanket landfill exemption levy for clean earth to encourage reuse rather than disposal. However, this change will have a material impact on Cleanaway and we remain concerned that there has been insufficient consultation given its significance for the waste and resource recovery industry.

I note the Bill provides for the option of applying for a clean earth operational purposes exemption where that material is used for the good operation and maintenance of the landfill site. At present, there is no information what the parameters of the exemption will be. Industry needs greater certainty of the exemption process including timelines to ensure a smooth transition. The exemption for clean earth to be used operationally for daily cover would be ideally legislated to provide certainty and avoid unnecessary administrative burden. Cleanaway notes that this practice is widely used throughout Australia as best practice.

Cleanaway

Cleanaway Waste Management Ltd is Australia's leading waste management company, with a national network of unique collection, processing, treatment, and landfill assets. Cleanaway operates from more than 250 locations and employs more than 6,600 people. Our philosophy is that all waste is a resource and we aim to incorporate recovery, recycling, and reuse throughout our operations and those of our clients. Our mission is making a sustainable future possible together.

Yours sincerely



**Mark Biddulph**  
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