



Mailing Address: PO Box 390, Gayndah Qld 4625
Street Address: 34-36 Capper Street, Gayndah Qld 4625
Telephone: 1300 696 272
Facsimile: (07) 4161 1425
Email: admin@northburnett.qld.gov.au
Web: northburnett.qld.gov.au
ABN: 23 439 388 197

17 September 2018

Our reference: 893034

Committee Secretary
Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to make submission on the above Bill. In response, I submit the following comments on behalf of Council.

General comment

A regulatory impact process has not been undertaken as to the economic and social impacts that the proposed legislation will have on rural and regional local governments.

Clause 6 – 26 Definitions for Chapter

The definition for “disaster management waste” only refers to a declared event. It is commonly known that the frequency and ferocity of storm events as well as other calamities (e.g. road trauma) generate waste. Waste from other events should be classified and determined at the discretion of the local government.

Clause 6 - 28 Application for approval of waste as exempt waste

Often waste is required to be managed within a short time frame. An application process to classify waste as exempt waste adds time and complexity to waste management. There should be categories of exempt waste determined by regulation. In addition, public waste such as street litter should be included.

Clause 6 - 35 Chief executive may declare waste to be exempt waste in exceptional circumstances

Again, this should be determine ahead of time and declared by regulation.

Clause 6 - 43 Regulation identifying waste levy zone

The methodology of determining waste levy areas based on population alone is flawed and requires greater consideration of the social and economic factors involved; especially in rural and remote local governments.

Clause 6 - 57 Weighbridge required

There are inconsistencies and errors in some local government environmental authorities (EA) where the EA nominates a higher amount than the actual quantity of waste received. It should be based on volumes actually realised and recorded. Furthermore, in rural and regional areas there may be multiple small landfills to service a large geographic area. The legislation

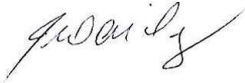
potentially disadvantages those local governments, especially where volumetric measures currently exist. There also needs to be assistance to local governments to review historic EAs with a view to transition to contemporary EAs.

Clause 6 - Volumetric survey for levyable waste disposal site in waste levy zone

An annual volumetric survey for landfills in rural and remote local governments in the levy zone is onerous. This provision should be for very large landfill sites.

The proposed legislation has potential to significantly impact rural economies, many of which are struggling with near drought conditions. Council contends that a regulatory impact assessment should be undertaken with an emphasis on rural and regional communities.

Yours faithfully



Jeff Miles
Environmental Services Manager
On behalf of Gary Rinehart
Chief Executive Officer

