

## Submission – Comments and Recommendations

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

Clause	Section	Detail	Comment	Recommendation
Explanatory Notes p.5	Estimated cost for government implementation	Between 2018-19 and 2021-22 it is expected that over 70% of revenue generated through the waste levy will be allocated to advance payments to councils, scheme start-up and operational costs, industry programs and other environmental priorities. Surplus revenue from the levy will benefit the entire Queensland community by providing funding for schools, hospitals, transport infrastructure and frontline services.	<p>The introduction of a waste levy in Queensland should directly benefit the resource recovery and waste industry and reimburse the operators for the administration, collection and payment of the levy. The need to find sustainable solutions with funds collected should be directed back into the sector to ensure resource recovery and waste collection options are sustainable in the long term providing the confidence to invest in new waste management and recycling infrastructure and technology. All funds generated by the levy should be diverted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate the community on waste reduction and resource recovery;</li> <li>• Provide economic development to improve the resource recovery sector;</li> <li>• Support a circular waste economy; and</li> <li>• Reimburse operators for collecting and paying the levy on behalf of the State.</li> </ul> <p>Diverting levy funds to consolidated State revenue is not acceptable to</p>	Council seeks a commitment that all funds generated by the introduction of a waste levy are fully returned to local government and the broader resource recovery industry.

			Council.	
Clause 2	Commencement	Part 2 commences on 4 March 2019.	The proposed start date in the first quarter of 2019 does not provide councils and industry in NQ with sufficient time to plan, prepare and develop alternative waste management practices prior to the start date. Introduction before this time will jeopardise Council's ability to be 'levy-ready'.	Council supports an extension of the waste levy commencement to align with the 2019/20 financial year (1 July 2019 commencement) to allow sufficient time to be 'levy ready'.
			Whilst provision has been made to amend Council rates and charges for the proposed commencement date, the amendments will still impose additional administrative burden on Councils to implement. A commencement date in line with the budget cycle will allow Council to construct appropriate budgets and fees and charges, and advise relevant stakeholders.	
Clause 6	Section 28	Application for approval of waste as exempt waste	Has the State Government considered how it will manage (by enforcement) excessive dumping of goods at charity sites / stores. It is one thing to provide a levy exemption, however Councils are often asked to provide free tipping to landfill for this excessive dumping. The management of this excessive dumping needs to be the responsibility of State Government and not become by default the responsibility of Councils.	

			If certain waste meets a specification and can be used at a levyable waste disposal site as part of the necessary operation of the site (e.g. for progressive capping, batter construction, final capping, profiling and site rehabilitation), then it should be allowed and not subject to an application being made.	That the definition of exempt waste be expanded to include any waste that can be used for the necessary operation of the levyable waste disposal site.
	Section 41	Mixing types of waste that attract different rates of waste levy	<p>Council's Contractor currently collects Council's bulk bins (Council waste) including general waste from the various Council facilities including the Council Depot and the two Council Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). The Contractor also collects grits and screens (regulated waste) from the Council's two STP's. The Council's Contractor currently collects these bins in their front lift truck while undertaking their other commercial services.</p> <p>Changing collection practices to avoid the higher waste charge for regulated wastes will increase the costs for Council and therefore the community and householder.</p>	
	Section 59	When waste or other material must be measured	There is no definition included for other material.	
	Section 72	Submission of waste data returns	When will the requirements for a waste data return be published? Council believes there will be	Moving the commencement date to 1 July 2019 may assist in Council's and software providers determining data and recording

			insufficient time to determine if the current waste management software will be capable of meeting data reporting requirements. Access to Levy Ready Grant funding for upgrades of current software will have closed by the time the information is published. Will Council have access to funding to upgrade the current waste management software and hardware once the requirements are published?	requirements.	
	Section 72R	Resource recovery area	Council would like confirmation on what is required for a physical barrier around an RRA. Section 72R(d) states that the physical barrier must comply with the requirements prescribed by regulation, however there are no requirements included in the draft Regulations. Council is proposing to use power poles for the physical barrier around one section of the RRA. Will power poles be considered an appropriate physical barrier? Council's new greenwaste hardstand area has a soil bund around three sides and a collection drain on the fourth side. Are soil bunds and collection drains considered appropriate physical barriers?	That physical barriers be defined.	
	Section 72W	Revocation of resource recovery area by chief executive	Council currently crushes all of the concrete received at Kirknie landfill and uses it for projects at the landfill (roads, hardstand areas, etc). Limiting the storage of material in the RRA to a	That Council's be allowed to store recyclables such as crushed concrete for periods greater than 12 months.	

			12 month period will limit Council's ability to reuse crushed concrete both at the landfill and in Council projects external to the landfill. The nearest commercial C&D recycling facility is located in Townsville. If Council is required to send material to this site Councils recycling cost will increase significantly. The cost would need to be passed onto rate payers.		
	Section 73D	Annual payment to local governments	<p>The requirement for the local government to include information about the purpose of the annual payment and amount received by the LG in its rate notices for the relevant year appears onerous and misdirected.</p> <p>If LG's are required to provide this information it is more pertinent in the annual report document. Having one element of government funding stipulated on the rates notice and where the impact of the waste levy is more evident in fees and charges and not rates and charges, is illogical.</p>	That the requirement for the local government to include information about the purpose of the annual payment and amount received by the LG in its rates notices be deleted and consideration be given to including such information in the annual report of the local government.	
Clause 7	Section 104	Illegal dumping of waste provision	The proposed levy will likely see an increase in illegal dumping. Therefore, Council will likely see increases in costs of managing illegally dumped waste such as expenditure for prevention, compliance, clean up, transport and disposal. In 2013 the DEHP estimated the cost to Councils of \$670 per tonne to manage litter and illegal dumping	Council seeks that the State takes lead role in marketing, communication and compliance to deliver a consistent message to the community around illegal dumping.	

			within Queensland. A rebate of \$70 will not assist Council in the collection of illegally dumped waste. The community will expect action and if the State Government does not provide additional resources, then Council will need to fill the enforcement void. This will be an additional cost burden due to the waste levy and that cost will have to be passed onto householders. Again, this will put at risk the Government's principle of having no direct impacts on householders.	
Clause 19	Section 323	Volumetric survey of levyable waste disposal site to be carried out within stated period	Council will incur additional unbudgeted costs to undertake volumetric surveys of the active landfill cells and stockpiles in the RRA between February and April 2019. Council currently undertakes volumetric surveys of these areas annually in July each year. Council believes the cost of these additional surveys should be included in the Levy Ready funding.	That the cost of the additional volumetric surveys of the active landfill cells and stockpiles in the RRA between February and April 2019 be included in the Levy Ready funding or reimbursed to local governments.
	Section 324	Volumetric survey of resource recovery area to be carried out within stated period	As above.	