

Date: 19 September 2018  
Contact: Karen O'Brien  
Location: Nerang office  
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Your reference:  
Our reference: #71753550



To Whom It May Concern  
Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Parliamentary Committee  
GPO Box 2257  
BRISBANE QLD 4001

Via email: [itdec@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:itdec@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Dear Committee

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

We welcome the opportunity to make a submission to the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Parliamentary Committee with respect to the *Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*.

The City of Gold Coast (the City) acknowledges the primary purpose of the bill is to act as a price signal that encourages waste avoidance and resource recovery behaviours, and discourage disposal to landfill as a first option, and we are supportive of the commitment to avoid direct impact on Queensland households. We believe it is important that any funds generated by the levy must be reinvested back into Community where the levy was collected and used for waste and recovery initiatives to ensure adequate investment for future generations.

The City's primary concerns on the Bill are:

1. Clause 2 (2) Commencement. The City has previously expressed concern around the commencement date being any date other than 1 July 2019. Commencing the levy at the beginning of the financial year will enable adequate time for the City to prepare software, financial and other administrative systems in addition to operational changes within the Water and Waste Directorate to successfully implement the levy.
2. Section 73D (4) Annual Payment to Local Government. The City acknowledges that the State's intent in communicating to the customer, however it is unclear in what format this is required. If this requirement relies on printing of information on the actual rates notice, there are limitations with our existing system to meet this requirement. If this can be achieved by providing an insert into the bill, it would be a more preferable cost effective option.

The City's additional comments and concerns are outlined in Attachment A.

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Please feel free to contact Karen O'Brien our Manager of Business Performance on  
or via email if you wish to discuss our submission further.

Yours faithfully  


Paul Heaton  
**Director Gold Coast Water and Waste**  
*For the Chief Executive Officer*  
Council of the City of Gold Coast

cc: Local Government Association of Queensland

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Attachment A

Section	Matter	Comments
27	Declared limits for disaster management waste	The City responds quickly to clean up activities following a disaster. This may include "free tipping" to expedite the recovery phase, waiting for a declaration from the chief executive could unnecessarily delay/hinder the recovery process for the community. This also applied to sec 35 below.
28, 29	Application for exempt waste	<p>The City is concerned at the need to apply, and the potential time it takes to evaluate, for an exemption will lead to operational difficulties and recovery and reuse opportunities missed, particularly in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Waste that has been donated but can't be reused, recycled or resold i.e. items not sold and need to be moved on and removed for disposal will require an exemption. This is difficult to plan what that will arise and when.</li> <li>d) If a waste disposal site is approached about a waste stream that is suitable for use at a levyable site for a reasonable/suitable and operational purpose then to have to wait for an approval is not operationally realistic.</li> </ul> <p>Clarity is required whether the exemption will be general or specific i.e. a named waste generator, set use, set period and set quantity or open ended for a particular waste type (regardless of waste generator) for a particular purpose only, for a maximum period.</p>
35	Exemption for exceptional circumstances	The City queries whether this would include severe weather condition that do not give rise a disaster declaration? As above in S29, the City moves quickly to encourage a clean up after an event and would require timely notification.



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38	Offence to remove levyable waste for gain	<p>In relation to the statement “.....<i>must not for sale or other commercial gain remove from the site waste for which the waste levy was, or is to be paid to the State.</i>”</p> <p>We understand that it is preferred all waste has undergone a recovery process before deposit but that is not always possible or practical. Should recoverable waste be identified after deposit at the landfill cell, our preferred approach would be to recover the waste before burial otherwise the resource has been lost.</p>
44 (3.a)	Application for discounted rate for residue waste	<p>Need to better define “... <i>a significant impact on the activity becoming established and sustained in Queensland</i>”. Clarity is required as to how will that impact be measured and the rate determined?</p>
44(4) and S17 of Reg	Discounted rate for waste levy for residue waste	<p>The City's preference is that all residue waste from MRF be exempt. This will then align to no negative impact on householders. A 50% discount only is likely to see a negative impact on householders, with costs being passed on.</p>
53(2.a).(5) and 55	Person delivering waste to give information	<p>The delivery person must give the operator of the levyable waste disposal site delivery information this includes how much is levyable and how much is exempt.</p> <p>Should operator reasonably suspect false information to avoid levy charge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) What information must be collected (is there a prescribed form and details to be completed?)</li> <li>ii) Where is that information sent?</li> <li>iii) Who investigates the suspected avoidance or giving false/misleading information?</li> <li>iv) What is a reasonable excuse not to provide delivery information</li> <li>v) is the delivery person permitted to tip without a levy charge applied while under investigation?</li> </ul>

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	continued...	The City is concerned with the safety and wellbeing of the weighbridge operators. The operators will be asking reasonable questions to customers to determine the correct application and are likely to face resistance and hostility.
59, 60	Measuring waste or other material	This requirement means all waste delivered to site must be measured and recorded in and out regardless if it ends up in landfill or the RRA (green waste, scrap metal waste, cardboard etc). This has significant resourcing, time and effort implications.
62 - 64	Requirements for a monitoring system	The City questions whether the CCTV recording/data storage requirements (S64.3.f) for systems installed by an operator are the same as those required if the CCTV system is required to be installed if the operator is given notice under S63? For example how long does the operator reasonably need to store CCTV recorded images for, and what are the minimum requirements prescribed by regulation for the CCTV monitoring system?
73D(5-8)	Misinformation	Whether a LG has included or published information that is considered to be "misinformation" on the grounds it is misleading is open to interpretation, fact can be reported in a misleading way. Guidance and clear examples of what is considered acceptable would be helpful to reduce the risk to the City not aligning to this requirement.
	Proposed Waste Levy Increase+-	The increase of the waste levy on January 1 each year creates an unnecessary and avoidable administration burden as a result of impacts and changes mid-year on rates and gate fees, much more practicable to make the change on 01 July when other fee changes may arise.

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	Collection Services servicing Commercial and Residential Customers. Collection Services	The City, like other Local Governments, has a number of services available to commercial premises for collection of waste and recycling. In providing this service, front-lift and side-lift trucks often service both Commercial and Residential Customers on the same route and are charged on the rates notice. The City will have significant challenges in determining the split between Commercial and Residential customers.
	<b>Amendment Regulation</b>	
10 (b)	Waste to be used at a levyable waste disposal site	Clarification on the purpose, circumstances and need for this section, operators will need to apply for exemption for suitable waste material in preparation for present or future operational works and they cannot forecast if suitable exempt waste is <i>"likely to be delivered to the site"</i> .