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Our Ref: D18/76759

26 September 2018

Committee Secretary
Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4001

Via email: itdec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Waste Levy Legislation risk to rate payers - Maranoa Regional Council

Reference is made to the invitation, calling for submissions regarding the *Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018* that have recently been announced by the Queensland Government.

Objection to Waste Levy Area

Council objects to the arbitrary inclusion of Maranoa Regional Council in the States waste levy zone, and requests to be removed from the levy zone.

This request is due to the distances between the urban areas within Maranoa, the low volumes of waste received (less than 5 000 tonne to landfill), and convey the revenue raised will be 'little' in comparison to the administrative and development costs associated with new infrastructure required, placing a burden on this Council and its rate payers.

Commencement Date

The commencement date of the 4 March 2019 was announced after Council had completed its 2018/19 budget. As such the implementation of this major waste service legislative change is a risk for this financial year.

A more appropriate date is 1 July 2019, allowing Council to be in a better position for upgrade or implementation of facilities that meets the requirements of this legislation.

Weighbridge requirements

The requirement for all waste levy sites to have a weighbridge installed is deemed unreasonable by this Council. There is a network of nine waste facilities within 63,000km², with travel distance sites of 100 or more kilometres, and populations of individual urban areas ranging from 10 to 700 people. The cost to install a weighbridge at each of these sites is excessive (>\$200,000.00), and to compound this issue, these smaller sites are not eligible for "waste levy readiness" funding.

Illegal Dumping Increase

We submit that the levy has the potential to expose regional local governments to a greater risk of illegal dumping, given the expansive open spaces and sparse population.



We seek commitment that the state will establish an 'easy to access and use' system for Local Governments to be fully refunded all costs associated with illegal dumping – collection and disposal of all waste.

Council propose that it be removed from the waste levy zone. Should the State not accept this proposal, and Maranoa remains in the levy area, considerable funding and other resources must be made available to enable Council to prepare for the implementation of administering the recently announced inclusion of this Council into the waste levy zone.

Council welcomes further dialogue with the Parliamentary Committee, and invite the committee to the Maranoa Region to experience first-hand the impost on small rural communities together with the financial and resource burden that will be placed on this local government to implement all requirements of the *Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*.

Should you have any enquiries regarding Council's submission, please do not hesitate to contact Council's Manager Environment, Health, Waste & Rural Land Services,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Hayward", is written over a horizontal line.

A small, stylized handwritten mark or initial, possibly "RH", is written to the left of the name.

Rob Hayward
Deputy CEO/Director Development Facilities & Environmental Services