

Question on Notice

No. 875

Asked on 15 June 2018

MR S O'CONNOR ASKED DEPUTY PREMIER, TREASURER AND MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PARTNERSHIPS (HON J TRAD)—

QUESTION:

Will the Treasurer provide a breakdown of where revenue from the Waste Disposal Levy will be allocated on a year-to-year basis over the next four financial years (reported separately by program and department)?

ANSWER:

Introducing a Waste Disposal Levy is a key recommendation of the recent investigation into the transport of waste into Queensland landfill.

The comprehensive waste strategy, including the Waste Disposal Levy, Plastic Bag Ban and Container Refund Scheme, is being introduced in a period of changing international policies relating to acceptance of recycling material, including China's decision to tighten quality standards for imported recyclable material.

The Waste Disposal Levy will be instrumental in changing waste management practices in Queensland.

By discouraging the disposal of waste to landfill, it will significantly boost certainty for investment in job-creating reuse, recycling, bioproducts and waste to energy industries.

It will bring Queensland into line with other States and remove a key incentive for cross-border transportation of waste to Queensland landfills.

The Waste Disposal Levy to be introduced in the first quarter of 2019 will be at a rate of \$70 per tonne (higher for regulated waste such as asbestos) increasing \$5 per annum.

Revenue from the Waste Disposal Levy will provide funding for waste industry programs, environmental priorities and community services.

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 local governments, operational costs, recovery and recycling industry programs and other environmental priorities.

This is a significant investment when compared to other jurisdictions. Queensland will allocate a significantly greater proportion of waste levy revenue to payments to local governments, waste industry programs and other environmental priorities than New South Wales (25%) and Western Australia (approximately 32%).

In Queensland, \$100 million will be allocated over three years commencing 2018-19 to the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program to support Queensland's resource recovery and recycling industry.

This program will be implemented by the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning which will work with the private sector and local government to deliver innovative solutions to the problem of waste sent to landfill and to create jobs in emerging recovery industries.

According to analysis undertaken by Access Economics, every 10,000 tonnes of waste disposed into landfill supports 2.8 full time jobs. If the same 10,000 tonnes of waste were recycled, 9.2 jobs would be supported.

The Government will provide an annual advance to those local governments in the levy zone that dispose of municipal waste in landfill. This will avoid direct costs to households from the introduction of the levy. In 2018-19, \$32 million has been provided for this purpose. The size of the allocation for the annual advance to local governments will depend on municipal waste volumes and will be calculated each year and based on the previous year's waste volume of municipal waste. This funding has been allocated to the Department of Environment and Science.

The Government has also provided \$34.3 million over five years and \$6.6 million per annum ongoing for the implementation of the Waste Disposal Levy and its ongoing operation. This funding has been allocated to the Department of Environment and Science.

Allocation decisions will continue however an early allocation of funding is to the Removal of Waste Metal from the Torres Strait and Palm Island.

Under this initiative \$5 million over two years is being provided to remove waste metal build-up including vehicle stockpiles from communities located in the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, Palm Island Aboriginal Shire Council and Torres Shire Council areas. The \$2.5 million funding allocation in 2019-20 is to be met by revenue collected from the Waste Disposal Levy. This funding has been allocated to the Department of Local Government, Racing and Multicultural Affairs.

Surplus revenue from the Waste Disposal Levy will benefit the entire Queensland community by providing funding for schools, hospitals, transport infrastructure and frontline services.