

Question on Notice

No. 542

Asked on Wednesday, 3 April 2019

MR C BOYCE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

With reference to advice from farmers at the southern end of the Banana Shire who have to either dig a hole to bury their commercial rubbish or drive for three hours to the registered dump at Biloela—

Will the Minister advise what advice has been provided to these farmers on their obligations under the new Waste Levy regulations?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Department of Environment and Science has been undertaking levy communication activities ahead of commencement of the waste levy on 1 July 2019. The department's social media and website content was updated and expanded on 3 April 2019. Other departments, such as the Department of Employment, Small Business and Training, are also assisting with delivering information.

The department is also working with the Local Government Association of Queensland to support local councils in delivering levy information. Information packs are currently being distributed across the State.

Farmers do not pay the levy on their waste disposed on their properties. The levy applies to waste disposed of at a waste disposal facility, such as a local council landfill.

The waste levy does not alter existing on-farm disposal requirements for farmers. Farmers can continue to lawfully dispose of their general waste on-farm, so long as they meet their duty to prevent and minimise environmental harm. Regulated wastes, such as pesticides, will still need to be taken to an appropriately licensed waste disposal facility, as is currently the case.