# LIFTING THE LID ON THE WASTE LEVY FOR ISAAC REGION COMMERCIAL USERS

#### QUEENSLAND'S WASTE LEVY

A State Government levy on waste going to landfill will begin on 1 July 2019. The levy is part of a State Government waste strategy for Queensland to increase recycling, resource recovery and reduce waste.

The levy will encourage business and industry to reduce, reuse and recycle more, only sending waste that cannot be recovered to landfill. Some of the money raised from the waste levy will go back into improving waste management and recycling in Queensland for example investing in new waste technology and education.

## WHY IS THE STATE GOVERNMENT IMPOSING A LEVY?

Queensland is a major underperformer in recycling and resource recovery with more than half (55%) of our waste ending up in landfill.

One of the reasons for this is that Queensland is the only mainland state without a waste levy – resulting in Queensland becoming a hotspot for interstate rubbish. Last year, Isaac region's businesses produced about 18,000 tonnes of waste which was landfilled.

### WASTE LEVY ZONE

The levy zone includes 39 out of 77 local government areas, including the Isaac Region. The zone covers around 90% of Queensland's population and is where the majority of waste is generated and disposed. Unless exemptions apply, waste going to landfill in Queensland will incur the levy, except if the waste is both generated and disposed of in the non-levy zone. This means that all landfill operators, including Isaac Regional Council, will be required to pay to the state government the levy (\$75 per tonne for most wastes) for each tonne sent to landfill. Council will be required to pass this cost on to commercial waste producers through its fees and charges.

### HOW MUCH IS THE LEVY?

The levy applies to all waste which is disposed of in landfill. The levy is charged at \$75 per tonne for general waste (municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition). Higher levies apply for regulated wastes.





#### **ARE THERE EXEMPTIONS?**

Some specific exemptions to the levy are available in particular circumstances, such as natural disasters, lawfully managed and transported asbestos, clean earth, and those approved by the Department of Environment and Science. Charitable recycling organisations can also apply for exemptions for items donated which can't be used or recycled.

#### HOW IS THE LEVY PAID?

Landfill operators are required to pay the levy to the Queensland Government. Each operator (council or privately owned) will determine how the levy is passed on to their customers, for example, through increased fees at the gate.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR BUSINESSES?

Businesses are encouraged to look at how they can reduce waste, separate waste streams and recycle as efficiently as possible to help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

If your waste is collected by a waste collection contractor then it's a good idea to find out how your contractor intends to recover the cost of the levy from you, and finding out more about what options are available to you. Please contact your waste collection contractor for advice.

If you take your own business waste to the waste site and pay Council on an account

or by credit card then Council will recover the cost of the Queensland Government waste levy through increased gate fees. Legislation requires Council to calculate levy amounts either by using a weighbridge (Moranbah and Dysart waste sites) or using a "Deeming Table" (at all other sites) which works out the correct amount based on the size of your vehicle. It may benefit you to switch to using a weighbridge site or to avoid trips to the waste site when your vehicle is only partly loaded. Please remember Council has to comply with Queensland Government legislation.

#### WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE?

The Chamber of Commerce Industry Queensland (CCIQ) ecoBiz program is a free initiative funded by the Queensland Government that helps businesses save money across their energy, water and waste bills. EcoBiz provides personalised coaching, including new services specifically targeted at assessing and reducing business waste.

Planet Ark Business Recycling also provides useful tips for reducing waste: www.businessrecycling.com.au

Council offers recycling services for businesses including scrap metal, green waste, concrete recycling which attract lower disposal fees

More information: www.qld.gov.au/waste-disposal-levy





FOR MORE INFORMATION: ISAAC.QLD.GOV.AU | 1300 ISAACS (1300 47 22 27)