

LIFTING THE LID ON THE WASTE LEVY

FOR ISAAC REGION HOUSEHOLDERS

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 Queenslanders to reduce, reuse and recycle more, only sending waste to landfill if it cannot be recovered. 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 itself is a major

underperformer in recycling and resource recovery with more than half (55%) of Queenslanders' 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.

Around 50,000 tonnes of waste was produced in 2017-18 throughout the Isaac region. The amount of waste we produce is growing. Only 35% of that waste was recycled or diverted from landfill.

HOW IS THE LEVY PAID?

Landfill operators – including Isaac Regional Council – are required to pay the levy to the Queensland Government.









WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR HOUSEHOLDS?

The Queensland Government has committed to implementing the waste levy with no direct impact on households. To deliver this, local councils will receive advance payments to offset the levy on household waste going to landfill. Councils will receive advance payments from the government to offset the levy.

In relation to the waste levy in 2019-20, there is no plan to charge residents to use the local Isaac Regional Council waste management facility but commercial users are required by State Government to pay the levy.

HOW YOU CAN HELP?

Many Queensland families are already doing their bit to reduce their household waste and boost recycling. Every small action you take can make a big difference, like:

Reducing your food waste

look at what you have at home

before you go shopping

- shop with a list and check used-by dates on your food
- freeze food before it expires
- consider turning food and garden waste into compost

Buying better

- avoid plastic packaging, like buying loose fruit and vegetables instead of prepackaged
- choose products made from recycled materials
- where your budget allows, buy products that last longer

Choose to refuse and reuse

- say "no" to single-use products like straws and plastic bags
- choose reusable items over disposable ones, like plates, cutlery, bags, drink bottles and coffee cups
- donate your quality goods to charity or buy and sell second hand goods

Recycle right

 visit Isaac Regional Council's website to find out more about recycling in your area.

