

# Waste Levy

## starts 1 July 2019



## Queensland Waste Levy

A levy on waste going to landfill began on 1 July 2019. The levy forms part of a new waste strategy for Queensland.

Avoiding waste produced at home and in business by reducing how much we use and throw away is the ultimate goal. Waste that is recycled and recovered before it reaches landfill will not incur the levy.

Introducing a waste levy will benefit the environment and bring Queensland in line with other mainland states.

### Why do we need a waste levy?

Around 10.9 million tonnes of waste was produced in 2017-18 in Queensland, enough to fill almost 9,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools. The amount of waste we produce is also growing faster than our population.

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

To date the real cost of waste disposal to landfill has not been fully accounted for, and valuable resources from waste streams are ending up in the ground, which could be recovered.

### How much is the levy?

The levy amount is set in Queensland Government legislation and will increase annually.

General waste (municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition): **\$75 per tonne**

Regulated waste: **\$105 to \$155 per tonne**

These are GST exclusive amounts and will be applied in addition to existing landfill gate fees.

### How is the levy paid?

As a landfill operator, Banana Shire Council is required to pay the levy to the Queensland Government on all waste disposed of to landfill.

To fund these levy payments, Council is charging a GST inclusive waste levy service fee in addition to existing landfill gate fees on all waste disposed to landfill.

Details of fees and charges are available on Council's 2019/20 Fees and Charges Schedule.

### 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, Banana Shire Council has received an advance payment from the Queensland Government to cover the cost of the levy on **household** waste (municipal solid waste) going to landfill.

This means there will be no additional levy on household rates. Household waste disposal remains free in Banana Shire for waste delivered to a Council waste facility.

Arrangements by the Queensland Government may be made for households which dispose of waste through commercial operators.

### What does this mean for my organisation?

Commercial waste will include any waste from any organisation that is non-residential and is not otherwise exempt from the levy.

The levy applies to all waste that is ultimately disposed of in landfill. The levy does **not** apply to waste that is recycled or otherwise diverted from landfill.

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

## FACT SHEET

## Queensland Waste Levy

The cost of **commercial waste** collection services is likely to be increased by waste service providers to cover the increased disposal fees. Please discuss these changes with your provider directly.

The utility charge on non-residential kerbside bin collections will increase to accommodate the waste levy. Further information is available on Council's website [www.banana.qld.gov.au/waste](http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/waste).

#### What help is available for organisations?

The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) provides an ecoBiz program, which is a free initiative funded by the Queensland Government that helps businesses save money across their energy, water and waste bills.

This program provides personalised coaching including new services specifically targeted at assessing and reducing business waste. Visit [www.ecobiz.cciq.com.au](http://www.ecobiz.cciq.com.au).

Planet Ark Business Recycling also provides useful tips for reducing waste. Visit [www.businessrecycling.com.au](http://www.businessrecycling.com.au).

#### LOCAL DISPOSAL FACILITIES

Residents can still self-haul household waste to local waste facilities at no charge.

Non-recyclable commercial waste is currently only accepted for disposal at Council's Trap Gully Landfill, and not at any other waste facility in the Shire.

Council is investigating the option of providing fee payment services at other waste facilities in the future to enable disposal of small quantities of commercial waste at these facilities.

To administer the levy, Council will be making changes to some waste facilities, including providing supervision and restricting opening hours. Further information will be provided to affected communities prior to changes being implemented.

#### Recycling in the Shire

Where possible, Council will be increasing recycling opportunities at waste facilities.

Council does not charge residents or businesses for recycling services provided at waste facilities (with the exception of tyres and commercial loads of clean concrete), however load size limits may apply.

To find out more about recycling in our Shire, visit: [www.banana.qld.gov.au/waste](http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/waste) and review Council's A-Z of Waste Disposal

#### HOW YOU CAN HELP

Many families and organisations are already playing their part to reduce their waste and boost recycling. Every small action you take can make a big difference, such as:

- Reducing food waste
- Composting and worm farming
- Choosing products with less packaging
- Where possible, purchasing quality items that last longer
- Choosing goods made from recycled products
- Saying 'no' to single use products like straws and balloons
- Donating quality goods to charity, or buying and selling second hand goods
- Recycling at local waste facilities.

#### Report illegal dumping

Illegal dumping and littering affects the health and safety of our community. It can be reported to:

- Council (contact details are provided in the box below), or
- The Department of Environment and Science as follows:

Online: [www.qld.gov.au/litter](http://www.qld.gov.au/litter)

E-mail: [illegaldumping@des.qld.gov.au](mailto:illegaldumping@des.qld.gov.au)

Phone: **24/7 Pollution Hotline - 1300 130 372**

#### MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about the Queensland Waste Levy visit:

[www.qld.gov.au/waste-disposal-levy](http://www.qld.gov.au/waste-disposal-levy)

To find out more about waste collection, disposal and recycling in the Banana Shire visit:

[www.banana.qld.gov.au/waste](http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/waste)

#### How can you contact us?



online, visit [www.banana.qld.gov.au](http://www.banana.qld.gov.au)  
click on 'Contact us'



email [enquiries@banana.qld.gov.au](mailto:enquiries@banana.qld.gov.au)



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