

# Waste Levy

## starts 1 July 2019



## Queensland Waste Levy

A levy on waste going to landfill will begin 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?

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

Regulated waste: **\$105 to \$150 per tonne**

The levy 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.

In order to fund the levy payments, Council will be required to increase landfill gate fees.

The cost of **commercial waste** collection services, including skip bin and wheelie bin services, is likely to be increased by waste service providers to cover the increased disposal fees.

Please discuss these changes with your provider directly.

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

### 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 will receive advance payments from the Queensland Government to cover the cost of the levy on **household** waste going to landfill.

This means there will be no additional levy on household rates.

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

### What does this mean for my organisation?

The levy applies to all waste that is ultimately disposed of in landfill. The levy will **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.

You may wish to discuss recycling options further with your waste service provider.

### What help is available for organisations?

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

## FACT SHEET

## Queensland Waste Levy

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

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

### Local disposal facilities

Residents will still be able to 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 also investigating the option of providing fee payment services at some waste transfer 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.

Waste facilities are currently under review through the development of a Shire-wide Waste Management Masterplan. The aim of the Masterplan is to enhance the strategic direction of waste management infrastructure and services provided to the community.

Council is keen to engage with the community and more information will be provided during community engagement/information sessions before changes are implemented.

### Recycling in the Shire

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

Currently, Council does not charge residents and businesses for recycling services provided at waste facilities. However, commercial operators may charge a fee for collection and processing of certain recyclable material. Please discuss this directly with providers.

To find out more about recycling in our Shire, visit:

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

### 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
- Choose products with less packaging
- Where possible, purchase quality items that last longer
- Choose goods made from recycled products
- Say "no" to single use products like straws and balloons
- Donate quality goods to charity, or buy and sell second hand goods
- Recycle 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)

#### 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)



telephone (07) 4992 9500



mail, post to Banana Shire Council  
PO Box 412, Biloela Qld 4715

