

QUEENSLAND WASTE LEVY

A levy on waste going to landfill commenced on 1 July 2019.

The levy is part of Queensland's waste strategy—creating a future where waste is avoided, reused and recycled to the greatest possible extent.

The levy encourages business and industry to reduce, reuse and recycle more, only sending waste that cannot be recovered to landfill.

Queenslanders are encouraged to do their bit by reducing household waste and recycling more.



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 (55%) of our waste ending up in landfill.

Before the levy was introduced, Queensland was the only mainland state without a waste levy—resulting in Queensland becoming a hotspot for interstate rubbish.

What does this mean for businesses?

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

It is also a good idea to find out how levy fees are managed by your waste service provider, and find out more about your waste collection services—how it impacts your ability to recycle and what options are available to you.

Waste-related collection and transport businesses are encouraged to talk with landfill operators and factor in the cost of the levy in business operations.

What does this mean for households?

The Queensland Government committed to implementing the waste levy with no direct impact on households.

To deliver this, local councils receive advance payments to cover the cost of the levy on household waste going to landfill.

Waste levy zone

The levy zone includes 39 local government areas—covering around 90% of Queensland's population, where the majority of waste is generated and disposed.

All waste going to landfill in Queensland will incur the levy unless the waste is both generated and disposed of in the non-levy zone.

How much is the levy?

The levy on waste going to landfill is charged at \$75 per tonne for general waste (municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition). Higher levies apply for regulated wastes.



How is the levy paid?

Landfill operators are required to pay the levy to the Queensland Government.

Each operator (council or privately owned) determines how the levy is passed down to customers, for example, through increased gate fees.

What help is available?

CCIQ ecoBiz is a free program, 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:

www.ecobiz.cciq.com.au

Planet Ark Business Recycling provides useful tips for reducing waste:

www.businessrecycling.com.au

Your local council may also provide useful information reducing business waste.

Will exemptions apply?

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.

More information

To find out more about the Queensland waste levy visit **www.qld.gov.au/waste-disposal-levy**

Report littering and illegal dumping at **www.qld.gov.au/litter**