

Upcoming Industry Waste Levy (Queensland)



The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is undertaking a waste reform program comprising a new Waste Strategy and the proposed introduction of an Industry Waste Levy from 1 July 2011.

Implications for industry

Industry will be directly impacted by increased costs as a result of the introduction of the proposed Industry Waste Levy, which will impose an additional charge above the normal gate fee for all industrial waste delivered to a disposal facility. The rates which would apply to categories of waste are detailed in Table 1.

TABLE 1 PROPOSED INDUSTRY WASTE LEVY

WASTE STREAM	DISPOSAL LEVY AMOUNT
Commercial and Industrial waste (C&I)	\$35 per tonne
Construction and Demolition waste (C&D)	\$35 per tonne
Contaminated and acid sulphate soils	\$35 per tonne
Lower hazard regulated waste	\$50 per tonne
Higher hazard regulated waste	\$150 per tonne
Municipal waste	\$0

It is proposed that the Levy be adjusted annually in line with CPI movements, with the fee level and its effectiveness as a price signal to be reviewed every three years. The proposed Levy will cover all local government and private sector waste disposal facilities in south-east Queensland and major regional centres.

Be Aware

There have been reports of waste contractors already claiming increased fees due to the proposed waste levy. The levy will not apply to your waste prior to 1st July 2011, and any unlawful business practices should be reported to the Office of Fair Trading on 13 13 04.

For further information please contact:

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Ai Group position – the industry's perspective

In August 2010 Ai Group made a formal submission in response to the draft Strategy following consultation with members. Ai Group's submission raised concerns in relation to the following areas:

- Allocation of levy revenue
- Timing of commencement of waste avoidance initiatives
- Adequacy of existing levy infrastructure; and
- The need for greater enforcement to prevent illegal dumping

Ai Group's submission is available at <http://www.aigroup.com.au/policy/submissions>

Next steps

Ai Group will continue working with the Queensland Government as detail around the strategy for implementation is progressed, including as a member of DERM Strategic Advisory Committee.

Further details on the waste reform program will be made available by the end of 2010 including the release of the final Waste Strategy and an exposure draft of the new Waste Avoidance and Resource Efficiency Bill.

Ai Group will keep members up to date on developments through our Sustainable Business Newsletter and Environment Working Group as well as provide practical solutions to waste issues through our Environmental Solutions Forums.

Need assistance with your waste management practices?

Call Ai Group's energy and sustainable business help desk on 1300 733 752 or email: sustainablebusiness@aigroup.asn.au.