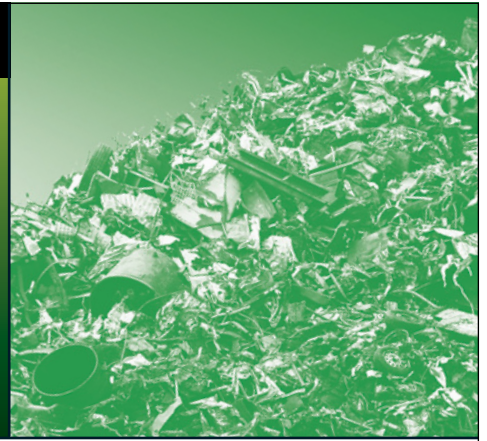


Queensland State Levy On Industrial Waste



The Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) is undertaking a waste reform comprising a new Waste Strategy and the introduction of a State Government levy on industrial waste from 1 December 2011.

Progress Update

Following extensive industry consultation, the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) released in December 2010 the final Queensland Waste Reduction and Recycling Strategy 2010-2020. This strategy sets broad goals to reduce waste, optimise recovery and recycling, and develop sustainable waste industries and jobs. The strategy can be found at www.derm.qld.gov.au/environmental_management/waste.

Due to the recent natural disasters that have devastated the State, and in response to calls from industry and local government representatives, including Ai Group, public consultation on the Regulatory Assessment Statement has been extended until 28 February and the introduction of the waste levy has been postponed until 1 December 2011.

Implications for industry

Industry will be directly impacted by increased costs as a result of the introduction of the State Government Waste Levy, which will impose an additional charge above the normal gate fee for all industrial waste delivered to a disposal facility. The levy 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

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

Ai Group position – the industry’s perspective

Throughout the waste reform consultation process, most of the concerns raised in Ai Group’s submission to the draft waste strategy have been taken on board and addressed by State Government.

Although there is still a significant amount of work needed prior to levy introduction, considerable progress has been made with regards to levy design and implementation, as well as funding program development. These funding opportunities will be critical for businesses in order to avoid increased waste disposal costs.

Ai Group has prepared several submissions throughout the consultation process to date. These are available at <http://www.aigroup.com.au/policy/submissions>.

Next steps

Ai Group has been extensively engaged in all aspects of the waste reform process. We will continue working with the Queensland Government as implementation detail is progressed, including as a member of DERM Strategic Advisory Committee.

With the levy introduction now postponed to December 2011, further details on the waste reform will be made available in May 2011 including the exposure drafts of the new Waste Reduction and Recycling Bill and its associated Regulation.

Becoming Levy Ready

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 specific waste seminars to be rolled out prior to levy introduction.

For further information please contact:

Jemina Dunn, Manager – Policy and Public Affairs
T: 07 3244 1767 E: jemina.dunn@aigroup.asn.au

Isabelle Gabas, Principal Adviser – Environment and Energy
T: 07 3244 1504 E: isabelle.gabas@aigroup.asn.au

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.