

What the waste levy means for Queenslanders

Queensland's waste levy

A levy on waste going to landfill will begin on 1 July 2019 at \$75 per tonne.

The levy is part of a new waste strategy for Queensland to increase recycling and resource recovery and reduce waste. The levy will encourage Queenslanders to reduce, reuse and recycle more, only sending waste to landfill if it cannot be recovered.

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.

One of the reasons for this is that Queensland is the only mainland state without a waste levy—resulting in Queensland becoming a hotspot for interstate rubbish.

How is the levy paid?

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

Each operator (council or privately owned) will determine how the levy is passed on to their customers, for example, through increased fees at the gate.

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, local councils will receive advance payments to offset the levy on household waste going to landfill.

How you can help

Many Queensland families are already doing their bit to reduce their household waste and boost recycling. Every small action you take can make a big difference, like:

Reducing your food waste

- look at what you have at home before you go shopping
- shop with a list and check used-by dates on your food
- freeze food before it expires

Buying better

- avoid plastic packaging, like buying loose fruit and vegetables instead of pre-packaged
- choose products made from recycled materials
- where your budget allows, buy products that last longer

Choose to refuse and reuse

- say "no" to single-use products like straws and balloons
- choose reusable items over disposable ones, like plates, cutlery, bags, drink bottles and coffee cups
- donate your quality goods to charity or buy and sell second hand goods

Recycle right

- visit your local council website to find out more about recycling in your area
- find out if other recycling options are available near you: www.recyclingnearyou.com.au
- if you have kerbside recycling bins, a few general rules for better recycling:
 - do not put your recyclables into the recycling bin in a plastic bag
 - do not put soft, scrunchable plastics in the recycling bin
 - clean out your recycling items to make sure they are accepted for recycling—a quick rinse or a scrape can make all the difference.