

For immediate Release

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Waste Levy critical for Queensland

According to the Boomerang Alliance, if Queensland wants to avoid becoming a dumping ground for other states wastes, it must introduce a comprehensive waste levy to make interstate transport of wastes uneconomic.

‘Queensland is the only State without a levy on waste and will continue to receive interstate waste, and bear the dreadful social, economic and environmental costs, until a waste levy is introduced,’ said Toby Hutcheon, QLD Manager for the Boomerang Alliance

‘The conclusions of the Independent Lyons Inquiry into interstate waste and the majority view of the waste industry and transporters are indisputable. A properly constructed levy at a price designed to remove the incentive to bring waste to Queensland is estimated to be in the region of \$60-\$70 per tonne.’

‘Queensland is a wasteful society and a waste levy, by putting a price on waste and directing levy funds to waste avoidance and resource recovery, will reduce waste, create new business opportunities and more jobs in recycling and reduce the environmental impact of excessive and continued waste practices.’

‘To be fair and effective it should apply to all sources of waste generation-industry, business and municipal sectors.’

A 2017 review of the Newman Government Waste Avoidance and Resource Productivity Strategy (2014-24), that removed the waste levy, showed that in the period 2013-2016, per capita waste generation increased by 4.4%, waste to landfill increased by 9.6% and both domestic and business recycling showed significant decreases.

The review concluded that Queensland waste reduction targets for the municipal, C&I and C&D sectors for 2024 will not be met.

This review preceded the massive 40% increase in interstate waste transport that has taken place in the last 18 months.

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