

Response ID ANON-BMZD-WHE8-9

Submitted to Review of the waste levy
Submitted on 2020-05-04 15:19:25

Introduction

Your Details

1 What is your name?

Name:

Philip Jennings

2 Do you want to remain anonymous?

No

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6 Do your views officially represent those of an organisation?

No, these are my personal views

[REDACTED]

7 Which of the following best describes the group or person you represent?

Academia

If other, please specify.:

8 Are there specific parts of your submission that you want to keep confidential?

No

If yes, please outline which specific parts of your submission must be kept confidential and explain why:

Objective of the waste levy

1 Are there any beneficial outcomes that can be achieved by a levy beyond those identified in the objectives of Waste Strategy 2030?

Yes, the objectives should specifically mention supporting recycling initiatives, educating and informing the community about waste management initiatives and providing funds for improved recording and reporting of waste management practices.

How the levy can help achieve the objectives of Waste Strategy 2030

1 Are there any other strengths or weaknesses of a waste levy as an instrument for achieving the objectives of Waste Strategy 2030?

Increasing it too rapidly may result in more illegal disposal.

Charging by weight or volume may also lead to increased illegal disposal.

The best approach may be to widen the scope of the CDS to cover further categories of waste. Also developing more industries in WA to process recyclables will help.

Rate of the levy

1 How has the waste levy benefitted or affected your waste business or operations?

N/a

2 Can you advise of any recycling and waste diversion opportunities that would become viable if the waste levy was increased or applied in a different way? What rate of levy could be required to make these viable?

Funds from the levy could be used pro-actively to subsidise local recycling and reuse industries. We should aim to process most of our recyclables in WA, even if this requires an ongoing subsidy from the waste levy.

We also need to improve record keeping and reporting of waste and this should be funded from the waste levy, or the recycling levy that LGAs impose.

3 Please provide information on potential impacts which may result from increasing the waste levy.

It will tempt people to dump waste on public land. A lot of this already occurs.

4 If you knew when the waste levy was going to be varied, how would it affect your decisions about managing waste or related investments?

Setting future levy rates

1 How might the Government best balance the need for responsiveness to emerging knowledge about best practice waste management with the benefits of providing the confidence about future waste levy rates?

The rate should reflect the real cost of managing the waste, including reporting, and environmental and greenhouse costs and loss of land capability costs.

Geographical area of the levy

1 Are there opportunities for the recovery of regional waste that would be made more viable by a regional waste levy?

Definitely, the levy would encourage regional councils to set up recycling schemes, especially if they are subsidised from the levy funds.

2 Where are these opportunities most likely to be viable?

Initially in major regional centres in the south west and mid west. Also centres that are close to major railways. Recycling schemes should be gradually introduced across the whole state and partly funded by the levy.

3 What rate of waste levy could be required to make them viable?

The rate should reflect the true cost of waste disposal.

4 Under specific circumstances, it is possible that an expanded waste levy area could make evasion less financially attractive. How does the cost of transporting waste over long distances compare with the cost of the levy?

5 What other advantages or disadvantages could arise from a regional waste levy?

It will make regional recycling schemes viable and create employment in a sustainable industry. The true costs of waste disposal should be reflected in the levy.

Waste management options to be levied

- 1 Waste Strategy 2030 proposes that by 2020, only residual waste will be used for energy recovery. How will this requirement affect your waste management operations?
- 2 Would a waste levy on energy recovery have a different effect on your operations?
- 3 Are there any other waste management options where applying a levy could help achieve the objective of Waste Strategy 2030?

The levy should also apply to liquid and gaseous wastes (this would cover waste to energy projects). The levy should reflect the real costs of addressing pollution and greenhouse emissions from waste management practices.

Other improvements to the waste levy

- 1 What other changes to the design or implementation of the waste levy could help make it more effective or efficient in achieving the targets of Waste Strategy 2030?

The waste levy should be used proactively to support emerging recycling industries, particularly the recycling of plastic waste. Our goal should be to recycle and recover valuable materials from our waste in WA. The levy should provide the funding to facilitate this. We need to have a long term goal of phasing out landfill and ocean disposal of wastes Atmospheric disposal of wastes should be taxed in order to encourage the minimisation of atmospheric emissions of pollutants.

We also need detailed record keeping of waste management and this should be funded by the levy as it is part of the real cost of waste management.