

14 July 2020

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**RE: Review of the Waste Levy – Consultation Paper**

EHA (WA) is concerned about the potential expansion of the waste levy to areas outside of the metropolitan area and the associated impacts on regional and rural communities.

The concerns relate to:

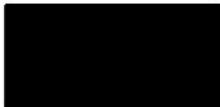
- Significant additional costs for affected remote communities and local governments (and their ratepayers) associated with the introduction of a Waste Levy.
- Additional administrative burden placed on local governments with respect to managing applicable waste levy related information and reporting requirements.
- The fact that the vast majority of funds collected through the implementation of the Waste Levy are not been used for waste minimisation related purposes.
- The resulting disincentive for people to access sanitary landfill facilities for waste disposal purposes due to additional costs and resultant the associated increase in illegal dumping of waste on local government and crown land.
- The potential increase in hoarding/storage of waste on private properties, with the associated detrimental contamination/environmental impacts in an attempt to avoid the additional cost of the waste levy.

Any expansion of the waste levy should include an automatic rebate or subsidy to the local government to assist with enforcement of waste management activities. The rebate/subsidy should be linked to the amount of waste attracting the levy, a proportional rebate/subsidy. The rebate/subsidy should be automatic and free from government/departmental intervention.

Any proposed expansion of the Waste Levy to areas outside of the Metropolitan area must be subject to a cost/benefit analysis with respect to the affected communities. In addition, any extension of the Waste Levy should be a staged process to allow affected communities to properly prepare for the associated financial implications.

If you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

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Vic Andrich

EHA (WA) President