



MEDIA RELEASE

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Waste tax to encourage dumping and harm business

Queensland's new waste tax will encourage illegal dumping and increase costs for most Queensland businesses, according to Queensland's leading waste collectors.

The tax, designed to stop the amount of waste going to land fill, became law this week.

Under the new legislation a new levy of \$35 tonne applies to waste going to landfill. On some wastes it will be \$150 tonne.

Household waste will not be taxed, but the Government expects to raise \$100 million a year, mainly from businesses

WCRAQ Executive Director Rick Ralph said Queenslanders already achieved a high a recycling rate of 48%, without a tax on waste sent to landfill.

"Our industry has provided significant feedback on a multitude of important matters to Government, most of which have all been ignored, and we now have no choice but to pass this additional expense on to customers, as result of this poorly written legislation," he said.

"Schools, hospitals, restaurants, shops, builders and tradesmen will now all be directly affected and costs to them at set to escalate," he said.

"Many businesses won't realise the true impact of this new cost until their next waste bill arrives in January," Mr Ralph said.

WCRAQ is running a state-wide advertising campaign to advise its business customers that their bills will be going up.

"We have started that communication process, and unfortunately our members have been on the receiving end of a lot of anger from businesses already doing it tough," Mr Ralph said.

Mr Ralph said WCRAQ was committed to sustainable development, minimising waste and increasing resource recovery, but was very concerned about the way the tax had been implemented and how our industry must now act as Government tax collector.

"Household waste is largely exempt. Businesses are the ones who are paying, and there will be a lot of unforeseen consequences and hardship as result," he said.

Mr Ralph said the Government was clearly concerned the increased costs would encourage illegal dumping and had started its own advertising campaign on this issue.

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For more information please contact:

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About WCRAQ

WCRAQ is Queensland's leading waste and recycling industry association. Our members number more than 85 companies employing more than 6,500 Queenslanders. We are committed to sustainable development, minimising waste and increasing resource recovery.

2011 Winner Australian Supply Chain and Logistics Awards – Environmental Excellence

2011 Winner Australian Supply Chain and Logistics Awards – Industry Excellence