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# reThink Business Waste

Presented by:  
Department of Environment and Resource Management

**Toward**   
Tomorrow's Queensland



**Queensland**  
Government



# Why do we need to reThink Waste?





## Why do we need to reThink Waste?

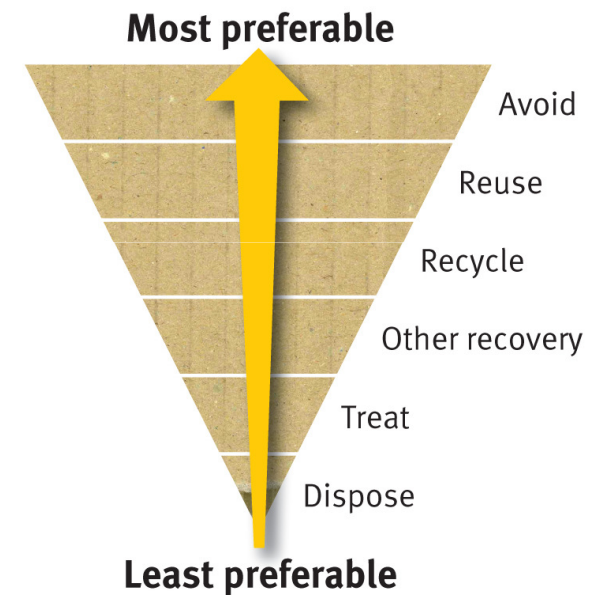
- Waste is an inefficient use of resources
- Unsustainable generation and disposal of waste in Queensland
- Current waste management legislation is out of date

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## Key components of waste reform

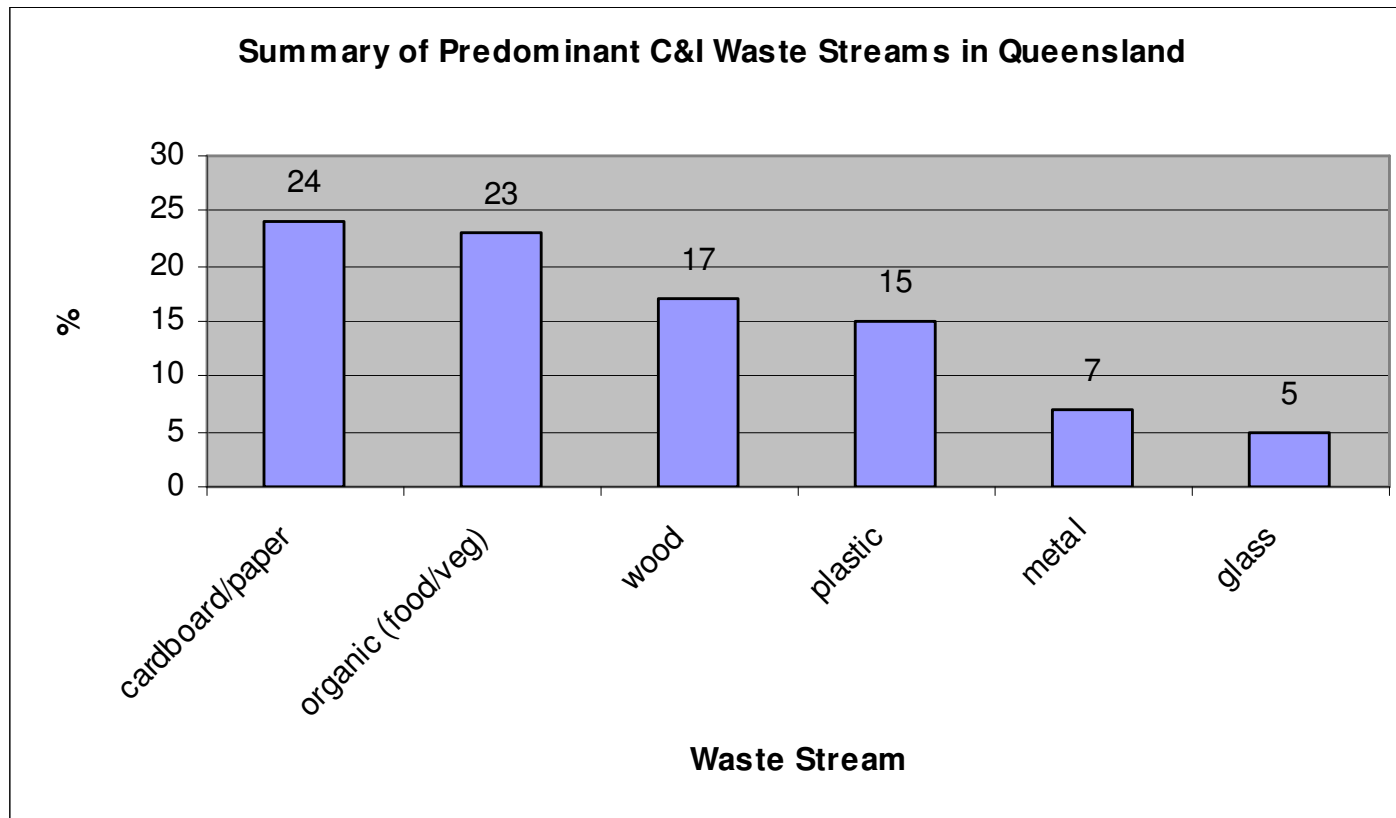
- Stronger legislation and targets
- Use of a price signal
- Funding to waste programs
- Partnerships



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## Timber waste in Queensland?



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## Queensland's targets

By 2020 Queensland will need to:

- reduce waste to landfill by 50%
- reduce generation of waste by 15% per capita
- reduce landfill gas emissions by 50%

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- Recover and recycle:
  - 75 per cent of construction and demolition waste
  - 60 per cent of commercial and industrial waste
  - 45 per cent of regulated waste
  - 65 per cent of municipal solid waste
- reduce the total amount of, and the environmental impacts from, litter and illegal dumping

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## Why a levy on waste?

- While waste to landfill is seen as the cheapest option, it is the most inefficient use of resources.
- Funding from levy will help fund cost effective solutions for stakeholders for better waste management across the state and stimulate growth in sector.
- Discourage interstate waste 'dumping' in Queensland as the cheapest option.

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## The levy — how will it work?

- Commences 1 December 2011
- Applied per tonne of waste disposed to landfill
- Applied to commercial and industrial (C&I), construction and demolition (C&D) and regulated wastes that are not diverted from landfill
- Facility operator to pay the levy to DERM on waste delivered to the facility and landfilled

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## The levy on waste to landfill — how much?

Waste levy category	\$ per tonne
Commercial and industrial waste	35
Construction and demolition waste	35
Contaminated and acid sulphate soils	35
Lower hazard regulated waste	50
Higher hazard regulated waste	150
Municipal solid waste	0

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## Will my business be charged the levy?

- Only landfill operators within the levy zone will pay the levy on waste.
- Charges may be passed on by your waste collection service provider.

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## The levy—where?

- 34 local government areas
- 99% of the population
- 99% of Queensland's waste

Levy Zone and  
Local Government Boundaries

- Towns
- Local Government Boundaries
- Levy Zone



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## Waste = inefficient business process

- 1) Pay for waste to come on-site
- 2) Pay to move waste around as an operating cost
- 3) Pay to dispose of waste

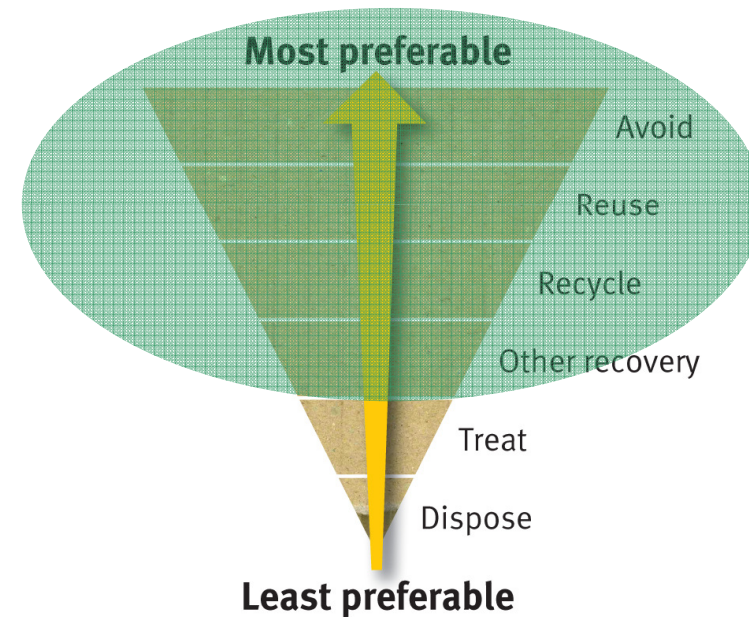
Start thinking about avoiding and reducing waste in the first place.

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## The levy and your business

- The levy will not apply to material diverted from landfill.



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## C&D waste – building sites

- Material use – options for recycled materials
- Site development – design for minimal disturbance
- On site waste separation

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## What about residuals and treated timber?

- Proposed exemptions suggested for recycling residuals
- Treated timber attracts the levy
- Position paper in development on recycled timber

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# Reuse and Recycling

## Furniture concepts

- Off-cuts reused
- Off-cuts recycled – sent to Rocky Point
- Dust compacted into pellets

[www.fconcept.com.au/](http://www.fconcept.com.au/)



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## Practical steps: reduce, reuse and recycle

- Step 1 – Measuring volume of business waste
- Step 2 – Materials to target
- Step 3 – Local collectors of recyclable materials
- Step 4 – Introduce a new resource recovery service
- Step 5 – Implement source separation systems
- Step 6 – Educate staff



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## Step 2 – Materials to target What is in my waste stream?

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### Office Sector Profile

More than half of all waste produced in offices is paper, which can be easily recycled. Introducing recovery and recycling initiatives can stop the majority of waste produced by offices ending up in landfill.

Waste Type	Percentage
Paper - All other	44.6%
Office paper	14.9%
Food/kitchen refuse	0.9%
Electronic items - Computers etc.	0.3%
Concrete/Construction/Building Waste	4.8%
Dry cardboard	4.0%
Plastic - Film	3.4%
Other	14.7%

Data sourced from Commercial and Industrial Waste Audit for Central Queensland Local Government Association

**Paper (59.4 per cent)**

- Check that the business is not over-ordering stock.
- Take simple steps to reduce paper waste, such as setting the printer default to double-sided printing, reusing scrap paper for notes, and encouraging staff not to print unless it is necessary.
- Make it easy to recycle by placing small paper recycling bins at desks and near printers that can be transferred easily into larger recycling bins.
- Clean, dry paper and newspaper can be recycled using a separated paper recycling service or a co-mingled service.
- Depending on how much paper the business has to dispose of, it may be beneficial to use a baler or compactor for commercial collection.
- Ask around—other local businesses, schools or community groups may be able to use paper or newspaper.

**Food and kitchen waste (6.6 per cent)**

- Separately collect food scraps in the kitchen area and introduce an on-site composter or a bokashi bucket for fruit and vegetable peelings, leftovers and coffee grounds.
- Identify a local food waste collection service or negotiate the use of a local restaurant's or cafe's collection service.

**Electronic items (6.3 per cent)**

- If the items are in good working condition, consider donating them to a charity for re-use.
- Electronic items, such as computers, can be collected by e-waste recyclers.
- Find a local supplier who can provide a collection or drop off service.
- Mobile phones can easily be recycled at drop off points in many phone stores or, alternatively, offices can organise to become drop-off points.
- Check the business's purchasing policy to ensure it is not over-purchasing or renewing items before they are required.

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- Ideas on how to reduce, reuse, recycle different materials types:  
[www.derm.qld.gov.au/waste](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/waste)  
[businessrecycling.com.au](http://businessrecycling.com.au)
- Business 'waste buster' program
- ecoBiz

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## Step 3 – Who can divert my business waste from going to landfill?

DERM has partnered with Planet Ark's business recycling directory to help businesses find local resource recovery service providers.

[businessrecycling.com.au](https://businessrecycling.com.au)





## Step 4 – Introduce a new recovery service

Recycling collection incentives





# Step 5 – Separately collect materials

## Equipment rebate





# Step 6 – Educate staff



Department of Environment and Resource Management

Organics (including food and garden organics) Dark green or black Lims Green

You may wish to regenerate your existing bin stocks and should discuss your needs with your waste and recycling contractor to reflect the Australian Standard colours.

**Mixed recycling materials - recycling bin stickers**

The following artwork can be applied to recycling bins for the collection of mixed recycling.

Recycling and waste bins at Queensland Rail

Image of item	Link to download file
	<a href="#">Download artwork</a> (PDF, 3,016)* DBRM's <a href="#">terms and conditions</a> take effect immediately upon downloading Recycling Artwork. Imagery: Glass juice bottle, milk carton, cardboard tray, newspaper, plastic cup, plastic bottle, aluminum can, plastic containers 1-7
	<a href="#">Download artwork</a> (PDF, 2,416)* DBRM's <a href="#">terms and conditions</a> take effect immediately upon downloading Recycling Artwork. Imagery: Glass juice bottle, cardboard tray, newspaper, plastic cup, plastic bottle, aluminum can, plastic containers 1-7
	<a href="#">Download artwork</a> (PDF, 2,614)* DBRM's <a href="#">terms and conditions</a> take effect immediately upon downloading Recycling Artwork. Imagery: Glass juice bottle, cereal box, newspaper, plastic cup, plastic bottle, steel can, plastic containers 1-7



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## Grants programs

- New markets
- New business opportunities
- Cleaner production
  
- Waste infrastructure grants
- Market development grants
- Business waste avoidance grants
- Applied research & development grants
- Community grants
- HazWaste grants

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## Where to from here for timber?

- Market development for recovery services
- Other states lead – e.g. WA Hazelmere Timber Recycling Centre
- Move away from business as usual
- New opportunities

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## How to stay informed

- Check DERM website for updates about new reThink Business Waste programs
- Register your business details at [www.derm.qld.gov.au/waste](http://www.derm.qld.gov.au/waste) to be notified about reThink Business Waste programs