

WRIQ Waste Industry Regulation Policy

The Queensland, and Australia's waste management industry is faced with major challenges with changing markets and regulation. To ensure a robust, efficient and innovative waste management industry in coming years regulation by state, local and federal government is perhaps the most influential factor in determining the success or failure of the industry.

With dynamic change comes gaps and issues in existing regulation and between jurisdictions. It is critical that all stakeholders, in particular, the state government, local government and private enterprise carrying out operations, work together to create an industry that serves the people of Queensland to a high standard of community health and environmental protection.

WRIQ POSITION

1. Waste industry regulation will foster a level playing field amongst participants
2. Regulation will encourage stakeholders to work together to develop a modern and high quality waste industry rather than establishing parties as opponents.
3. Existing and new regulation should seek to prescribe the targets, limits or standards of waste operations rather than prescribing how those objectives should be achieved.
4. Regulation should promote and support practical innovation, consistency, stability, foresight and the avoidance of reactive, unproven changes.
5. Queensland waste regulation should seek to harmonise with other jurisdictions as is appropriate.
6. To the extent that waste regulation prescribes the use of a levy on waste to landfill, funds received by the government should be hypothecated towards the development of Queensland's waste industry, including education of the community, infrastructure development, support of new initiatives and addressing major issues as they arise.
7. State and local government authorities responsible for enforcing waste regulation should do so in a comprehensive, unbiased, cooperative manner that supports credible operators.

8. Waste industry operators that are seeking to undermine a level playing field and the development of a strong waste industry regarded well in the community should be policed immediately and appropriately as required by the relevant authority. Poor or inconsistent enforcement is a major impediment to positive industry development.
9. Waste regulation should specify a fair and equitable set of penalties and fines.
10. Waste regulation should establish a foundation and culture of collaborative effort by all stakeholders to achieve Queensland waste management and resource recovery objectives.