

## FACT SHEET

### *Waste and Resource Recovery Bill 2021*

The *Waste and Resource Recovery Bill 2021* establishes the Waste and Resource Recovery Board to coordinate strategic waste management, and to support and encourage resource recovery across the State. The Bill introduces a state-wide levy on waste disposed to landfill as a mechanism to enable the implementation of strategic investment into Tasmania's waste and resource recovery sectors.

The Bill operates alongside the framework of Tasmania's existing environmental regulation under the *Environmental Management and Pollution Control Act 1994*. Collection of the levy and enforcement of levy obligations will be regulated by the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment.

In summary, the Bill:

- Establishes the Waste and Resource Recovery Board.
- Provides for the Board to have a range of functions, including
  - the development and implementation of a state-wide Waste Strategy that will set long and short term objectives for waste minimisation, and investment in the waste and resource recovery sectors;
  - supporting communities, particularly in regional and remote areas.
- Enables the introduction of a state-wide levy for each tonne of waste disposed to landfill.
- Entitles landfill operators to claim a full rebate for each tonne of reusable waste that they redirect from their landfill to a resource recovery facility.
- Allows the levy amount to be prescribed in the regulations.
- Requires operators of landfill and resource recovery facilities to comply with the operational and other requirements of the Bill and regulations.
- Allows for certain facilities and waste types to be exempted from the levy if there is a clear public interest to do so.
- Requires collected levies to be deposited in a dedicated 'Waste and Resource Recovery Account'. The funds in the Account may only be used by: the Board for its functions and approved waste strategy; and for purposes to be set out in Regulations including relevant administrative and compliance costs.
- Allows for the appropriate sharing of information and data between the Board, the Secretary of the Department, and the EPA, to support efficient administration of the waste levy system.

The levy collection and compliance requirements of the Bill (Parts 3 and 4) will not commence until proclamation. This is to allow the regulations to be developed, and for the Board to be established and develop its waste strategy in anticipation of the levy commencing on 1 July 2022.

The waste levy will have a staggered introduction over 4 years, with the intention of starting at \$20 per tonne and rising to \$40 and then \$60 at 2 yearly intervals. \$60 per tonne is the optimal rate and is the point at which maximum diversion is achieved. The staggered rate is intended to avoid price shock and allow time for alternatives to landfill disposal to be developed. The amounts will be expressed in fee units (as closely as possible) to ensure the amounts continue to be adjusted in real terms through time.