



Media Release: Embargoed to 11AM on October 17th
MORE RECYCLING = LESS TAX IN NSW

More recycling from NSW households could reduce taxes by up to \$250 million per year or some \$100 per household, according to the Australian Council of Recycling (ACOR).

Speaking at the Keep NSW Beautiful “Sustainable Cities Seminar” today, ACOR CEO Pete Shmigel said recovering more household material for recycling meant less going to landfill where it can be charged up to \$140 per tonne by the NSW Government waste levy.

“If we boost recycling, we avoid a cost most NSW households don’t know about, but currently pay through their Council rates. As well as more regional jobs and a better environment, more recycling can also mean less tax,” Shmigel told delegates from local government and other backgrounds.

“Last year alone, some \$727 million was collected through the waste disposal levy with the municipal sector accounting for about a third. The vast majority goes to consolidated revenue – while the levy’s stated goal is to reduce landfill.

“States like Victoria and South Australia have had greater levy reinvestment into recycling. They both have higher performance than NSW. It’s why, starting from scratch, Queensland has decided to re-invest 70% of its new waste levy into recycling initiatives where NSW may be on about 10 to 20%.

“Through more initiatives that reduce direct disposal, NSW can build on good progress and further reduce the amount generated by the landfill levy – and reduce costs to consumers, Councils, and businesses.

“It’s a virtuous recycling circle where putting a collected levy into the right initiatives cuts tax over time and develops a domestic rather than export-oriented industry. And, it’s timely when NSW families are concerned about cost of living pressures and Councils’ recycling programs are under cost pressure from the China situation,” Shmigel said.

A survey in April by Crosby | Textor showed 72% of NSW people support reinvestment of the waste levy into improved recycling.

Backgrounder

According to the latest National Waste Report, NSW is generating some 4.6 million tonnes of municipal solid waste. Some 2.4 million tonnes of this is recovered for recycling; some 370,000 tonnes are recovered for energy; some 1.9 million tonnes are disposed to landfill. According to the same Report, SA was the leader in resource recovery with a rate of almost 80%. The ACT followed at 75%, then Vic at 69% and NSW at 65%.

According to NSW Budget papers for 2018, the NSW Government received \$727 million from the waste levy – or some \$160 million more than anticipated. The NSW Environment Protection Authority budget for 2018-19 includes \$70 million to improve waste management.

The waste levy applies in the Sydney metropolitan area, the Illawarra and Hunter regions, the central and north coast LGAs to the Queensland border as well as the Blue Mountains, Wingecarribee and Wollondilly LGAs. The waste levy rate is: Metropolitan Levy Area \$141.20 per tonne; Regional Levy Area: \$81.30 per tonne.

For more information: Pete Shmigel 0419 541 531