

ACOR POLICY STATEMENT LEVIES ON WASTE DISPOSAL TO LANDFILL



INTRODUCTION

Over the last decade, several State Governments have moved to implement waste strategies that include as a core measure a levy on disposal of waste to landfill. This measure is designed to extend the life of existing landfills by reducing waste disposed to landfill and providing an economic incentive to divert the recyclable component of the 'waste stream' to resource recovery and recycling applications.

ACOR POSITION

ACOR's policy on the imposition of waste levies adopts the following principles:

1. ACOR gives in principle support for waste levies whose primary purpose is to maximise the recovery and recycling of material and other resources
2. Waste levies should be calibrated to provide the best form of incentive to all stakeholders in the value chain – the generator, collector, processor and recycler/manufacturer – to achieve maximum recovery of resources and their application to highest and best use
3. Waste levies should be structured so that they do not have effect as a perverse incentive which inhibits the commercial viability of resource recovery and recycling
4. Waste levies should be set at a level and applied in a way to embed a financial or commercial incentive for consumers and those disposing of end-of-life products and materials to divert resources to resource recovery as a first resort with disposal to landfill as a last resort
5. ACOR advocates that levies should operate as a 'feebate' such that the levy (fee) imposed on wasteful resource disposal is applied as an incentive (rebate) for the benefit of resource recovery and recycling by commercially available means
6. ACOR believes the full amount of all revenue raised by such waste levies should be applied to the principle purpose of maximizing the recovery and recycling of resources
7. ACOR believes waste levies should not apply to:
 - a. Recycling residues which are inherently not capable of being recycled based on current best practice;
 - b. Hazardous materials, such as asbestos and highly contaminated soils, which have no recyclable properties and should properly, be disposed of to landfill.
8. Where any levy does apply to recycling residues, the levy should be subject to a discount or rebate in proportion to the efficiency with which the recycling process recovers the resource for recycling i.e. an 80% recycling yield will be awarded a rebate of 80% of the levy otherwise applying to general waste.
9. ACOR supports a consistent approach to levy systems across all Australian jurisdictions.