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Project Manager
Waste Reform Project
Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Locked Bag 33
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Emailed to: warr_reform@dwer.wa.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Submission on Discussion paper – Waste levy and waste management: Proposed approaches for legislative reform

The Shire of Denmark support waste reform in Western Australia and understand the need for amendments to the Waste Levy Framework to ensure it performs as intended. The Shire also support, and participate in, a move towards a reduction in waste consumption and creating a closed loop system for waste management.

The Shire would therefore like to ensure that any waste reform considers the unique circumstances experienced by rural Local Governments in this area, i.e., isolation to required waste management services, increased incidents of illegal rubbish dumping, and the lack of social awareness of waste and associated environmental issues.

Most recycling services used by rural LGs are based in the Perth Metro Area. The need to transport recyclable waste into the city before it can be managed, makes these Local Governments liable for higher costs. In addition, although regional alliances exist, there are fewer opportunities to combine waste with other Local Governments and reduce the associated costs, as is often done in urban areas.

Rural Local Governments are also heavily restricted when setting prices for waste disposal, due to the lack of value placed on waste services coupled with the increased opportunities for illegal dumping in rural landscapes.

Any Waste Reform should consider rural Local Governments when directing funding from the Waste Levy, such as subsidies for weighbridges, as this would otherwise impose unmanageable costs and further barriers to adaptation in rural areas.

Rural Local Governments are unable to utilise the 'waste economy' to the extent that urban areas are able. Careful consideration should therefore be made when applying the proposed amendments to the waste framework, to rural communities. Additional support for rural areas will be invaluable to the overall success of this reform.

Should you require further information or advice on this matter please contact the undersigned on telephone (08) 9848 0300 or email enquiries@denmark.wa.gov.au.

Yours faithfully



Gilbert Arlandoo
Director of Infrastructure Services