

Phelan Rhea

From: Bernie Scott [Bernie@triq.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 30 July 2010 1:55 PM
To: waste paper
Cc: Greg Thomsen Cr.
Subject: Queensland Waste Strategy consultation draft submission

I wish to endorse the submission made by LAWMAC re the Queensland's Waste Strategy 2010-2020-Waste Avoidance and Recycling Consultation Draft. Tri Q is an associate member of LAWMAC.

Further, as the operator of a recyclables recovery facility (RRF) here in Mackay, operating under contract to Mackay Regional Council (MRC), I have a further point to raise. For the record we intercept private vehicles and remove any recyclable material prior to them reaching the weigh station, where dump fees become payable. In other words, it costs the public nothing for them to drop their recyclable material at the RRF. Tri Q performs a valuable community service, in that it provides employment and training to people with disabilities. By subcontracting out this operation to Tri Q, MRC receive a greater economic return through the achievement of a value for money cost, an environmental benefit and a clear community benefit. In the absence of such a contractual arrangement, MRC would doubtless do this work themselves.

Using a model involving an entity like Tri Q is a most attractive model from the public perspective, albeit one that is operated at some cost to MRC.

The essential point to note here is that we collect material dominantly from domestic or residential customers. While we are a not for profit business operating under contract to Council, we are engaged in intercepting domestic vehicles delivering domestic waste to the Transfer Station, thence to landfill. We remove material from the waste stream. That material is either recycled (eg. scrap metal) or resold for reuse. We estimate some 6,000m³ of material is diverted from landfill annually.

Of the material diverted for resale, most is sold but some material either cannot be sold or recycled, and must in the interests of practical site usage, be dumped. In the past financial year we sent some 340 Tonne to landfill, largely due to material being damaged from being exposed to weather damage.

I am led to believe that the proposed Landfill Levy may apply to this material, the rationale being we would be regarded as a business that is sending material to landfill.

Our submission then would be to provide in the Waste Strategy that, where the material sent to landfill by entities such as ours, that material be exempted from application of landfill levies. We make this submission on the following basis:-

- 1 the material being disposed of is essentially domestic in nature. I understand domestic waste is exempt from the levy
- 2 the business consigning the material is operating under a contractual arrangement to Council – were that arrangement not in place MRC would be performing the work themselves. I understand Councils are exempt from the proposed Levy

Tri Q recognises the great cost of material going to landfill and the need to establish a suitable cost recovery system. However, Tri Q seeks an equitable outcome so that it is not disadvantaged and therefore requests its activities be exempted from application of the Levy.

Bernie Scott
General Manager