

Sort Your Load and Save

This factsheet provides information to customers disposing of commercial, construction and demolition wastes at the Warrens Hill Landfill and Resource Recovery Centre (WHLRRC) on how to reduce their waste disposal charges by properly sorting their loads prior to entering the waste facility.

From Sunday 1 January 2023, a new fee structure will apply for the charging of commercial and industrial mixed waste, as well as construction and demolition mixed waste. The new structure provides reduced disposal fees where a mixed waste load has been separated from recoverable materials.



Who does this apply to?

The fee structure applies to all customers who bring in commercial and industrial waste or construction and demolition waste for disposal at WHLRRC.

Commercial and industrial waste relates to all waste produced by businesses and commerce. It includes waste from schools, restaurants, offices, retail and wholesale businesses, and manufacturing industries.

Construction and demolition waste is non-putrescible waste arising from commercial construction or demolition activity. Non-putrescible waste is waste that does not readily decay under standard conditions. Construction and demolition waste includes materials such as plasterboard, brick, timber, concrete and steel.

What is changing?

From 1 January 2023, the fees associated with disposing of commercial wastes into landfill will increase to \$305 per tonne. This amount accounts for the actual cost associated with landfilling activities as well as the waste levy applied by the Queensland Government.

To encourage commercial customers to reduce waste going to landfill by increasing sorting of recycled materials, loads that include minimal (less than 10%) amounts of recoverable materials will be charged at a reduced fee of \$210.75 per tonne.

All waste loads are to be presented for inspection to the weighbridge operator when arriving at the landfill facility. Covered loads will be required to be uncovered for inspection. Whether a load is deemed sorted or unsorted will be at the discretion of the weighbridge operator.



What does a sorted load look like?

A sorted load should be void of all recoverable materials when arriving at WHLRRRC (a small buffer of up to 10% will apply).

Recoverable materials that are not allowed in a sorted load include:

- ✓ Steel;
- ✓ Cardboard and paper;
- ✓ Recyclable food and beverage containers;
- ✓ Green waste;
- ✓ Clean earth, clean concrete and clean timber;
- ✓ Eligible chemical containers; and
- ✓ E-waste.

The below image would be deemed as a sorted load due to the levels of recoverable materials being less than 10% and will be charged at \$210.75 per tonne.



The load depicted in the image below would be deemed as unsorted due to the presence of recoverable materials (namely cardboard) being over 10% and will be charged at \$305 per tonne.



Note that the below materials are never to be included in a mixed waste load, sorted or unsorted:

- ✗ Tyres;
- ✗ Batteries;
- ✗ Mattresses;
- ✗ Asbestos or contaminated soils;
- ✗ Paints (unless dry) or gas bottles; and
- ✗ Contaminated waste, chemicals, liquids or oils.

Why is Council charging differently for unsorted waste loads?

Hinchinbrook Shire only has one operating landfill, located within the WHLRRRC. According to recent modelling, the landfill will be full by 2035 if current consumption rates continue. If resource recovery efforts were to improve, this lifespan could be extended.

Hence, Council is committed to reducing waste going to landfill and is therefore shifting focus from seeing waste as simply 'waste', to treating waste as a potential resource that needs to be recovered and recycled.

In addition, Council must manage the pressures of industry-wide price increases as well as the impact that the Queensland Government Waste Levy is having on landfilling.

What is the Queensland Waste Levy and how is it impacting on waste fees?

As of 1 July 2019, the Queensland Government introduced the Waste Levy, applicable to all waste being placed in landfill. The purpose of the levy is to encourage recycling and resource recovery by penalising landfilling.

The levy is payable by Council to the Queensland Government and currently sits at \$88 per tonne. The levy charge will increase in rate with the CPI increase each year on 1 July for regional areas.

Council must recover these charges in addition to operational costs, by adding them to the fees associated with landfilling.

What if I still have questions?

Contact Council's Customer Service Centre on 4776 4600 or email waste@hinchinbrook.qld.gov.au.

Please note, all charges are current as at Friday 1 July 2022 and may change without notice.