

# I N D E X

## A/Chief Executive Officer's Report

**22 JUNE 2009**

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**ITEMS ON REPORT**

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WASTE DISPOSAL FEES FOR ARMADALE LANDFILL AND RECYCLING FACILITY AND  
ROLEYSTONE GREENWASTE SITE ..... 2

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**ATTACHMENTS**

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NIL

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**CITY OF ARMADALE**  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer's Report**

**Mayor and Councillors**  
**City of Armadale**

Following is my Report for the period  
ended 18 June 2009

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***1. WASTE DISPOSAL FEES FOR ARMADALE LANDFILL AND  
RECYCLING FACILITY AND ROLEYSTONE GREENWASTE SITE***

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*This is being presented via the CEO's Report so that the City can respond at the earliest to the Environment Minister's notification of an increase in the waste levy.*

WARD	All
FILE REF	
DATE	17 June 2009
REF	WAB
RESPONSIBLE MANAGER	CEO

**In Brief:**

- This report presents a letter to be forwarded to the Premier, Treasurer, Minister for Environment and all Members of Parliament regarding arbitrary imposition of \$21 waste levy in the WA State Government 2009/10 budget.
- It is recommended that Council endorse the letter as presented regarding the arbitrary imposition of an increased waste levy.

**Tabled Items**

Nil.

**Officer Interest Declaration**

Nil.

**Strategic Implications**

Long Term Strategic Planning  
*Promote waste minimisation.*

**Legislation Implications**

General assessment of relevant legislation (eg Local Government Act) has not revealed any restrictions.

**Council Policy/Local Law Implications**

Nil.

### **Budget/Financial Implications**

Substantially distorts the City of Armadale's waste minimisation programme by divesting funding from the City to the State Government's operating budget.

### **BACKGROUND**

The State Government Budget, delivered on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2009, increased the landfill levy four fold from \$7.00 to \$28.00/tonne for putrescible waste and \$3.00 to \$12.00/cubic metre for inert waste from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009. It also proposed an amendment to the WARR Act removing the link between the funds raised by the landfill levy with advancing waste reduction. The State Treasury is the beneficiary, as much of the estimated \$52m raised will go into consolidated revenue via The Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC).

There was no consultation with the waste industry concerning the levy increase.

As each household produces approximately one tonne of waste per year, this will add another \$20 to the waste rate of Armadale households and \$21/tonne to the gate fees of all material placed in landfill.

Consequently a letter has been prepared for signing by the Mayor to express Council's outrage at the lack of consultation on this matter. Council's endorsement of the letter is sought.

### **DETAILS**

Council's endorsement of the following letter is sought:

#### ***“RE: ARBITRARY IMPOSITION OF WASTE LEVY – STATE BUDGET 2009/10***

*I write to inform you of my Council's indignation that the increase of \$21 per tonne on the land fill levy is arbitrary, unjustified and likely to have undesirable consequences. There is also great disquiet at the fact that it has been introduced without consultation.*

*Council has always supported the land fill levy while it was directly related to the reduction of waste to land fill and at a financial level that brought about positive behaviour change. However, the manner of imposition, the size of the levy, and the arbitrary imposition all breach these requirements and we are therefore unable to maintain this support. The City currently collects 23,145 bins in its putrescible waste collection and the levy imposition will have to be paid by all ratepayers, as rates discounts for seniors do not apply to waste charges.*

*Firstly, applying the levy to the general budget of the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC), does not ensure the levy is used directly to reduce waste to land fill. Whilst it might be argued that if the funds were not directed to DEC, then it would have less funds to apply to waste reduction, Council's position is that this is a very pale imitation of a hypothecated funding program. While the Minister makes much of the increase being designed to encourage the recycling of building materials, if that is indeed her intent, then its imposition on putrescibles waste from average households does not advance this cause. The*

*increase on inert waste to \$12 per tonne could be seen to be meeting that objective without an inappropriate increase on household waste.*

*Secondly, the size of the levy is such that it adds 10% to the City's waste fee for service and 24% to the cost of the City's waste disposal component of the fee. This cost increase is not only out of all proportion to other cost increases in Council's business, it comes at a time when household budgets are under increasing pressure and households are living in far greater uncertainty than for five years or more. Not only does the levy impact on municipal waste collected and disposed of by the City, it has an even greater impact on that section of the population which has no sense of responsibility or pride, and which dumps its waste rather than pay for disposal at our waste and recycling facility. Accordingly the initiative is expected to result in a significant increase in illegal dumping. This will be a blight on our landscape, and a further imposition on ratepayers as the City will have to divert staff from productive work to clean-up the mess, and deal with the degradation of the bushland in which it is dumped. The dumped material is also very often a health and environmental hazard as hard to dispose of materials such as batteries and chemicals are included.*

*Thirdly, the arbitrary manner of the imposition has not allowed Council the opportunity to suitably plan for, and prepare its community for, a cost increase of this magnitude. Such a preparation would have allowed Council to suggest alternative uses for the levy funds which would then allow us to meet waste reduction objectives. For example, we had been proposing a modest increase in our waste fee in order to place surplus funds into reserves to be used to facilitate the significant logistic and infrastructure costs of the transition from land fill to alternative waste treatment technologies and facilities. Council is currently working with our partners in the Rivers Regional Council to achieve this in the medium term.*

*This immoral diversion of the levy to State general revenue is a misuse of State power and will be a direct hit on the family budget, as the levy costs will have to be passed on to our ratepayers in full. Therefore I ask that when the required amendment to the Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Act 2007 that will permit the increased levy to be used on other than waste minimisation comes into the House that you vote against it.*

*In doing so I also direct your attention to the 16<sup>th</sup> Report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs, tabled in the Legislative Council on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2009 and in particular all the Recommendations of the Report which I have summarised for you in an attachment."*

## **RECOMMEND**

**That Council endorse the letter, as presented in this report, to the Members of Parliament.**

MOVED Cr  
MOTION CARRIED/LOST

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## 2. **COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION BULLETIN – ISSUE NO. 11/2009**

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WARD All  
FILE REF: CIB  
DATE 18 June 2009  
REF TLC  
RESPONSIBLE A/CEO  
MANAGER

**In Brief:**

- Councillors' Information Bulletin – Councillors are advised to take note of the information submitted in Issue No. 11/2009 to be received by Council.

### **Strategic Implications**

Corporate Services

- 2.1 Identify and implement mechanisms to improve communication and achieve common understanding of corporate issues and objectives.

### **COMMENT**

The following general information and memorandums were circulated in Issue No. 11 on 17 June 2009.

### **Correspondence & Papers**

- **WA Local Government Association (WALGA) News**  
Issue No.22.09 – 8 June 2009  
Issue No.23.09 – 15 June 2009  
The Reform Report – The Voice of Local Government – 4 June 2009
- **Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) News**  
5 June 2009  
12 June 2009
- **WALGA Correspondence/Media Release**  
210 Tonnes of E Waste saved from WA Landfills – 12 June 2009  
Road Close Threat for Grain Trucks – 15 June 2009  
Now uncertainty over New Tax – 15 June 2009

### **Information from Human Resources**

Employee Movements

### **Information from Technical Services**

- **Outstanding Matters & Information Items**  
Report on Outstanding Matters – Technical Services Committee
- **Monthly / Quarterly Departmental Reports**  
Technical Services Works Programme

- **Minutes of Occasional/Advisory Committees**
  - Minutes Bushcare & Environmental Advisory Committee March 2009
  - Minutes Bungendore Park Management May 2009
  - Agenda Rivers Regional Council 4 June 2009
  - Minutes Rivers Regional Council 4 June 2009
- **Miscellaneous**
  - Waste Services Report Jan-Mar 2009
  - Letter from Dept of Water – Water Conservation Plan

### **Information from Community Services**

- **Outstanding Matters**
  - Report on Outstanding Matters – Community Services Committee
- **Monthly / Quarterly Departmental Reports**
  - Library & Heritage Services General Monthly Report – May 2009
  - Manager Ranger & Emergency Services Monthly Report – May 2009
- **Minutes of Occasional/Advisory Committees**
  - Armadale Highland Gathering Working Group – 12 May 2009
  - Connected Communities Armadale Inc. – 5 March 2009
  - Public History Advisory Group Meeting – 2 April 2009
- **Miscellaneous**
  - Community Services – Program of Events – July to December 2009

### **RECOMMEND**

That Council acknowledge receipt of Issue No 11/2009 of the Information Bulletin.

Moved Cr \_\_\_\_\_  
Motion Carried (\_\_\_\_\_)

**I MACRAE**  
**A/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**