



I, Councillor Dick Gross, give notice that I intend to move the Motion outlined below at the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 02 August 2017:

That Council:-

- I. Supports the intended advocacy effort of the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group (MWRRG) Local Government Forum to write to the Minister for Energy and Environment requesting “that funds generated through the collection of the Municipal and Industrial Landfill Levy be constrained to the purposes for which the Levy was introduced” and raising concerns with the Levy funds currently being allocated to supplement Parks Victoria initiatives not related to the original purposes of the Levy.

Supporting Information

The Victorian Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Landfill Levy has been a point of contention between the State Government and Local Councils for some time as to its utilisation. Following the release of the 17/18 State Budget, the appropriate use of the EPA Landfill Levy has been a highly visible issue raised in both the Media and the MAV.

Over \$200M is collected in Landfill Levies annually and in the 2017 Budget, only \$7.6M per year for the next four years (or \$30.4M over four years, equating to less than 4% of the Levy income annually) has been allocated to waste management and resource recovery. This, added to the funds cover the running of the seven Waste and Resource Recovery Groups (WRRG's), waste management is allocated an annual total of 7.3% of the EPA Levy.

Recently, the allocation of EPA Levy income has changed via a legislative amendment (effective 1 July 2015). The EPA Levy is now administered by a committee within DELWP, removing any decision making power from Sustainability Victoria. This change also now allows for the Minister to make separate allocations from the Trust to public entities or bodies for environmental purposes.

This Landfill Levy was part of the EPA independent inquiry in 2016, which found that “**These levies are failing in their primary regulatory objective of reducing disposal to landfill**”.

The Sustainability Funds legislated purpose is split between:

- *Environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practise in waste management to advance the social and economic development of Victoria, and*
- *Adaption or adjustment to climate change, and the facilitation of community action in relation to greenhouse gas mitigation.*



The strategic priorities for the Sustainability Fund, as stated on the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) website are as follows, “with preference given to initiative that foster employment, new technology and innovation, resource recovery or ongoing behaviour change”:

Sustainability Fund’s legislated purpose:	
Fostering environmentally sustainable uses of resources and best practices in waste management to advance the social and economic development of Victoria	Fostering community action or innovation in relation to the reduction of greenhouse gas substance emissions [mitigation] or adaptation or adjustment to climate change in Victoria
<p>Strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● making alternatives to landfill more viable and cost competitive through the stimulation, creation and expansion of viable markets for recycled and recovered materials; ● facilitating a network of best practice waste and resource recovery infrastructure which minimises public health and environmental impacts and maximises resource recovery opportunities; ● providing equity in access to, and reducing impacts of, waste and resource recovery services on communities; ● improving waste education and waste management capability to reduce waste generation, recover resources, and prevent littering and illegal dumping; and ● modernising the management of legacy contamination or pollution. <p>Investment will be guided by Victorian government policies, including the Statewide Waste and Resource Recovery Infrastructure Plan, Regional Waste and Resource Recovery Implementation Plans and other relevant strategies.</p>	<p>Strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● supporting individuals, communities and industry to transition to a low carbon economy; ● supporting Victorians to adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly those most vulnerable and least able to do so; ● building Victorian communities’ capacity, capability and skills in responding to climate change; and ● assisting Victoria’s ecosystems and native species to be more resilient to climate change and/or support mitigation outcomes. <p>Investment will be guided by Victorian government policies, including climate change policies, the Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan, Energy Efficiency and Productivity Statement, Renewable Energy Action Plan, biodiversity plan and other relevant strategies.</p>
<p>The Hon LILY D’AMBROSIO MP Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change</p>	<p>The Hon DANIEL ANDREWS MP Premier</p>