



KYOGLÉ COUNCIL

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Date: Tuesday 8 August 2017

Kyogle Council Mayor and President of NOROC Cr Danielle Mulholland has called on the NSW Government to immediately axe the waste levy.

Cr Mulholland said NOROC and its constituent Councils had been lobbying the State Government for years to get rid of the levy which taxes local government \$79.60 for every tonne of waste that goes to landfill.

The waste levy introduced in 2008 has been blamed for a massive increase in illegal dumping, corrupt activity, and the cross-border black market trade in rubbish exposed in last night's Four Corners report.

"I urge the Premier to remove the levy and the accompanying legislation as soon as possible," Cr Mulholland said.

"This will almost halve the cost of landfilling, reducing rates and landfill fees, and eliminating the financial incentive that has led to the current black market trade."

Cr Mulholland said the waste levy was \$10 a tonne when first introduced by the State Government in 2008 -- it now stands at 79.60 a tonne.

"As the levy got higher in NSW, unscrupulous operators realised it was cheaper to truck the waste to Queensland or establish illegal landfilling operations. The NSW Government has incentivised these activities through its waste levy," she said.

Kyogle Council, which does not transport any waste across the border, paid \$224,802 in waste levies last financial year.

"We (Kyogle Council) operate our own licensed landfill in Kyogle and we are currently in the process of closing our Woodenbong landfill," Cr Mulholland said.

"All our waste that goes to landfill, is disposed of in our own landfills and all our recyclables diverted from landfill are processed through registered recycling companies.

"Each year we recycle around 2,000 tonnes of material. If we landfilled this material instead of recycling it, we would have to pay around \$160,000 in additional waste levy each year.

“From the day it was brought into play, the EPAs waste levy has been criticised as a tax on local communities rather than a solution to the management of waste and its impact on the environment.

"The Four Corners report provided shocking evidence to validate these claims and I call on the Premier to take action immediately.”

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