

No Waste Levy for Kyogle



Between 2009 and 1 March 2024 Kyogle Council was included in the regional levy area (RLA) and paid the waste levy.

The NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) temporarily removed Kyogle from the RLA after an election commitment by the Minns Labor Government. However, under current regulations Kyogle will be re-included in the RLA, and will have to recommence paying the waste levy, from 1 July 2027.

Kyogle Council should not pay the waste levy from 1 July 2027

The 2020 *Waste Levy and Grants for Waste Infrastructure Audit* conducted by the Audit Office of NSW found “there are no objective and transparent criteria for determining which local government areas pay the levy”. This remains the case today.

The EPA advised the NSW Audit Office that the levy area was expanded in 2009 on the basis of projected population growth, waste generation and disposal trends, ability of ratepayers to pay and possible waste flows between levied and non-levied areas.

Kyogle DOES NOT meet the EPA’s criteria for inclusion in the RLA.

EPA Espoused Criteria*	The Facts
Projected population growth	- Until 2021 the Kyogle LGA experienced negative population growth - Between 2021 and 2046 Kyogle population is projected to increase by just 323 people (NSW Department of Planning).
Waste generation and disposal trends	- In 2023/24 Kyogle Council landfilled approximately 3,500 tonnes of domestic waste. This is almost 21,000 tonnes less than the regional average. - The amount of waste Kyogle Council has been landfilling has been decreasing since 2021/22 when the amount peaked at just 3,800 tonnes.
Ability of ratepayers to pay	- The Kyogle LGA is categorised as a most disadvantaged local government area in the ABS Socio-economic Indexes for Areas. - In 2021 the median weekly household income was \$983; 47% lower than the NSW average of \$1,829. - Less than half the population aged over 15 participates in the labour force.
Possible waste flows between levied and non-levied areas	Kyogle Council is the only northern rivers council that is not sending waste to Queensland or another jurisdiction for disposal.

* As reported to the NSW Audit Office

The Kyogle LGA has been included in the RLA simply because it is part of the Northern Rivers and wider North Coast region. The facts demonstrate that the inclusion of Kyogle in the RLA is not justified according to the EPA’s own criteria. Environmental regulations must be amended to ensure Kyogle does not have to pay the waste levy from 1 July 2027.