1. On 11 December 2021, the Queensland Government announced a 10-year $2.1 billion waste package, including a $1.1 billion Recycling and Jobs Fund.
2. Concurrently, announcements were made concerning changes to the waste levy zone and rate; adjustments to local government annual payment arrangements; removal of the clean earth waste levy exemption; and changes to the operational purposes exemption framework.
3. In June 2022, changes to the levy rate and zone and annual payment arrangements were given effect through amendments to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Regulation 2011.
4. On 1 July 2022, the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs also announced additional items for inclusion under the single-use plastic items ban, including a ban on the mass release of lighter-than-air balloons, proposed to start on 1 September 2023.
5. The Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (the Bill) will remove the clean earth waste levy exemption, aligning Queensland to all other Australian states that have a waste levy.
6. The Bill amends the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to move the definition of waste to the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011* to provide a more streamlined framework in relation to waste management and recovery and allow for easier consideration of factors including circular economy, reuse, repair and recycled content that do not necessarily meet the threshold for environmental protection and reducing environmental harm.
7. The Bill further amends the definition of waste and creates a head of power to provide for a ‘thing’ to be prescribed in regulation to not be a waste.
8. The Bill introduces the ban on the release of lighter-than-air balloons; and embeds the circular economy principle into legislation.
9. The Bill makes provision for the chief executive to amend or suspend a resource recovery area declaration; provides an expiry date of 31 December 2025 for the exemption for otherwise banned single-use items that are integral to shelf-ready products (in alignment with the national packaging targets); and provides for the chief executive to determine payments to levy-impacted local governments if satisfied that the payment is necessary.
10. Cabinet approved the introduction of the Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 into the Legislative Assembly.
11. *Attachments*:
* [Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2023/Feb/WasteBill/Attachments/Bill.PDF)
* [Explanatory Notes](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2023/Feb/WasteBill/Attachments/ExNotes.PDF)
* [Human Rights Statement of Compatibility](https://dpcqld.sharepoint.com/sites/DPC-CABINETSERVICES/Shared%20Documents/General/Proactive%20Release/ToBeProcessed/2023/Feb/WasteBill/Attachments/SoC.PDF)