



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY QUEENSLAND SUBMISSION

*Draft Resource Recovery Industries 10-Year Roadmap and
Action Plan*

Department of State Development,
Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning

June 2019

Introduction

1. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland (CCIQ) welcomes the opportunity to provide input into the Draft Resource Recovery Industries 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan (the Action Plan).
2. The Action Plan is a key deliverable under the draft Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy, aimed at supporting resource recovery industries through the recovery, recycling and the remanufacturing of materials and provides a long-term plan to attract investment, develop new industries and grow jobs.
3. CCIQ is Queensland's peak industry representative organisation for small and medium businesses. We represent over 448,000 Queensland businesses on local, state, and federal issues that matter to them. Our guiding focus is to develop and advocate policies that are in the best interests of Queensland businesses, the Queensland economy, and the Queensland community.
4. We take this opportunity to provide comment on the Action Plan on the issues critical to small businesses in Queensland. Specifically, the Action Plan themes of accelerating the pipeline, market and supply chain development, responsive policy and legislative framework and advancing new technologies.

Accelerating the project pipeline

Background

5. CCIQ supports precinct development aimed at enabling the activation of circular principles in local business communities, including established businesses.
6. Through the ecoBiz programme (a program, funded by the Queensland Government to help businesses save money across their energy, water and waste bills), CCIQ currently works with the University of Queensland to identify and facilitate circular pilot projects with established businesses to understand how the circular economy can work within existing governance frameworks.
7. ecoBiz has experienced a significant increase in enquiries from councils who have expressed interest in the programme, proposed coordinated work for ecoBiz, or are actively engaged with ecoBiz;
 - a. it is expected that the number of businesses seeking ecoBiz program for actions on how to minimize their waste will increase with waste levy implementation
 - b. councils will be receiving approximately 35% of the expected revenue generated from the waste levy
 - c. much of what councils are now requesting of ecoBiz is beyond our current remit and resource envelope.
8. As an over-arching principle, RRIDP-related funding support should go back into Queensland-based businesses and technologies.

9. CCIQ supports the development of business models focused on waste elimination to complement efforts on waste diversion.
10. CCIQ proposes a partnership between businesses and the Department to identify precincts

Market and supply chain development

11. CCIQ supports the proposed emphasis on domestic processing in regions that may be able to utilise existing complimentary trades.
 - a. For example, this approach would be ideal in regions facing structural industrial shifts, where machine operators, heavy vehicle drivers, electricians and resource movement workers are experiencing jobs uncertainty but can contribute positively to a new circular economy.
 - b. This proposal will require seamless coordination with local councils.
12. The Department notes that current jobs projection is that waste diversion creates 9 jobs per 10 000 tons, which extrapolates to between 80 000 and 100 000 jobs by 2050.
13. CCIQ considers a sectoral breakdown of the projected waste diversion and industry jobs growth should be incorporated as a measure for monitoring and reporting on the Action Plan outcomes.
14. CCIQ advocates for an assessment of the critical transport and processing infrastructure as a baseline for establishing inter-LGA resource-sharing capacity for individualised resource streams.

Responsive Policy and Legislative Framework

15. CCIQ's position remains that the Action Plan goes some way to assist businesses with transition to the waste levy however implementation issues remain
16. Businesses are fronting the cost of the levy, yet there is no mechanism to control how waste service providers apply this directly to businesses.
17. ecoBiz has been taking calls directly from businesses who have been redirected from their councils over questions about how pricing will work and who is charging the levy. ecoBiz is fielding waste levy queries and are currently re-directing businesses to the Department of Environment and Science [DES] waste levy website.
18. With the Waste Levy to commence on 1 July 2019, there appears to be a distinct lack of understanding on the implementation, distribution and oversight of the waste levy across some councils.
19. CCIQ considers a formal evaluation mechanism be established to ensure that waste industry service providers are not profiteering from passing waste levy costs to the end-user.
20. CCIQ suggest controls around payments made to local councils so that they have clear performance targets to ensure waste levy revenue goes back to supporting local businesses.

21. A partnership approach between the Department of Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, the Local Government Association of Queensland and DES will ensure the waste levy funds are used for waste reduction strategies.

Advancing New Technologies

22. Review of current technology offerings to see what can be supported domestically, from an R&D and a commercial-ready standpoint versus what will need to be imported to ensure rapid transition.
23. A sound understanding of what technology we can support including waste to energy, specialised recycling, and virgin material applications will provide an excellent parallel stream to reviewing what infrastructure development needs to take place.

Conclusion

24. CCIQ thanks the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning for the opportunity to provide commentary into the Action Plan. If there are any questions in relation to the submission, please contact Gus Mandigora at gmandigora@cciq.com.au