

The cost of recycling is a fundamental issue which the waste levy should address, is the levy's intention to incentivise or demoralise? Surely if the cost of recycling is greater than the remuneration gained from the activity, then there is no point in commercial companies entering the recycling market? I suggest that recycling activities should be free of attracting the levy for the residual components that currently cannot be recycled economically. The promotion of recycling and reuse has seen most centers offering free recycling. A key purpose of the levy is to increase the gap between cost of disposal and effort to separate and recycle. However it also needs to address the cost of recycling. There is no point recycling goods that cost more to process than what the economic returns are worth. Unless we want to face increasingly higher disposal costs as companies / councils look to recuperate recycling losses from the general rubbish pool.

I acknowledge there are many drivers here zero tariffs and commodity price schedules included.

The governing agency of the levy needs not only to spend the levy on promotion, but also on the cost of recycling. After all what are we trying to achieve? Beneficial reuse or stockpiles?

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