

The Hon Anna Bligh MP
Premier of Queensland
PO Box 15185
City East QLD 4002

17 June 2010

Dear Premier

Concern over proposed Industry Waste Levy

On behalf of the Queensland Tourism Industry Council, I wish to express our concerns over the implications of government's proposed Industry Waste Levy on the tourism and hospitality industry in Queensland.

I raise these concerns on behalf of tourism and hospitality operators in Queensland – many of which fear that this waste management policy direction will unduly shift the bulk of the burden and cost of waste management onto already-struggling Queensland businesses.

As will be further detailed in QTIC's submission to 'Queensland's Waste Strategy 2010–2020 Waste Avoidance and Recycling Consultation Draft', a number of factors - such as the recent economic downturn, the soaring Australian dollar and even inclement weather – continue to test the resilience of the tourism industry in Queensland. These issues are exacerbated by the current regulatory environment, which imposes a significant financial burden on operators.

Given the current economic pressures placed on tourism businesses in Queensland, operators will be unable to pass any cost increases onto consumers. With this in mind, the new waste levy has potential to further erode the economic viability of tourism businesses and ultimately have negative flow-on effects for the economy and the capacity of the industry to employ and retain staff.

While QTIC recognises the need for strategies to drive improved waste generation and disposal practices, consumer demand is already ensuring the development and continuation of responsible environmental practices in the tourism industry. These practices will be further enhanced by the, soon to be introduced, 'National Tourism Accreditation Framework', which will ensure that the industry exceeds government's environmental targets without the need for further environmental levies and taxes.

In light of the detrimental impact of these further cost impositions on the tourism industry, I urge you to reconsider the application of this new business tax and, through engagement

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with relevant industry stakeholders, develop appropriate solutions to the issues raised in this correspondence.

QTIC will continue to coordinate the concerns of the tourism industry on this issue and awaits your reply.

Please feel free to contact me on (07) 3236 1445 should you wish to discuss any aspect of this correspondence further.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of connected loops and a final upward stroke, resembling the letters 'D' and 'G'.

Daniel Gschwind
Chief Executive