

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

WASTE AVOIDANCE AND RESOURCE RECOVERY LEVY BILL 2007

SECOND READING SPEECH

HON DAVID TEMPLEMAN MLA

I move that the Bill now be read a second time.

Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Levy Bill 2007

A levy has been in place since 1998, under the *Environmental Protection (Landfill) Levy Act 1998*. The *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Bill 2007* repeals that Act, and the present Bill replaces it.

There are two objectives of the landfill levy. It functions as an economic instrument for influencing waste management practices, including reducing waste to landfill, by increasing the price of landfill disposal. The funds raised by the landfill levy are then used to support waste-related programs which have the effect of reducing waste to landfill.

The effect of the Bill is essentially unchanged, but the name has been changed to reflect the companion Bill, the *Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Bill 2007*.

The provisions of this levy Bill have been tightened slightly, from those under the *Environmental Protection (Landfill) Levy Act 1998*, to ensure that the occupier of a landfill cannot avoid liability for the levy by failing to hold the required licence.

While the wording of the Bill is appropriately general, there is no intention at this time to apply the levy to anything other than waste that is landfilled.

Should any Government seek to change how the levy is applied at some time in the future, it could only be achieved by the making of regulations, which would require wide consultation with affected stakeholders and the assent of the Parliament.

It is not anticipated that the levy should be applied to alternative waste treatment or materials recovery facilities at any stage.

I commend the Bill to the House.