

# Regional Approaches to Waste Management

LG Infrastructure Services specialises in developing regional solutions for waste management. Our experience shows that regional facilities and coordination can reduce the costs for capital outlays, operating requirements and maintenance for all participating councils.

## BENEFITS

### Significant capital cost savings

The economies of scale that can be achieved by large regional projects can often produce significant capital cost savings for all participating councils.

### Significant operating cost savings

Operating cost savings can be achieved by removing duplication and promoting greater efficiency in service provision.

### Simplified access to State Government funding and approvals

Meet the common requirement of subsidy providers to show that regional options have been fully considered.

### Raise environmental standards

Regional facilities and services often reduce the overall environmental impact of waste disposal.

### Coordinated approach

A regional approach promotes efficient coordination of services, systems and processes.

## BREAKING DOWN THE BOUNDARIES

Given Queensland's vast land size, council boundaries do not always support the most efficient management of waste. As waste generation is directly related to population and industrial activity, the logistics of transporting and managing waste should not be entirely determined by local government boundaries.

In many cases a regional approach can minimise the cost of providing waste management services. By identifying solutions that are not restricted by council boundaries, LG Infrastructure Services is able to help you identify the best possible technical and value-for-money solution. Savings are often possible by avoiding duplication and optimising the flow of material through the waste management network. This approach aims to ensure that the service is delivered at the lowest possible cost while maintaining high environmental standards.

## AN EMERGING PRIORITY

Environmental Protection Agency guidelines for the operation of Queensland's waste management facilities include specific standards for new landfill sites. These guidelines require councils to consider regional options and ensure new landfill sites are located where they are most needed.

A recent Productivity Commission report also made several recommendations for the waste management industry. The report recommends that councils:

- introduce user charges that are in line with actual business costs
- have a sustainable approach to landfill, recycling and collection services, and
- review the business structures they have in place for the management of waste.

As community and legislative standards for waste management increase, so do the costs of compliance, facility development and operation. A regional approach is often the best way to manage these costs while ensuring the environmental impact of waste disposal is minimised.

## REGIONAL COLLABORATION SERVICES

LG Infrastructure Services can assist councils or groups of councils to:

- review the best available waste management options
- identify the benefits and costs of the available options
- develop a regional program and coordinate its implementation
- centralise and coordinate tendering, State funding and planning approvals, and
- identify the most suitable technology.

LG Infrastructure Services specialises in regional waste management solutions.

## OUR APPROACH

LG Infrastructure Services can help you to identify your best waste management option by considering your region's needs as a whole. A typical three-step approach would be:

### 1. Identify the current rates and charges

How do they compare, considering service offerings and risks?

### 2. Calculate the full cost of current waste practices for councils

Are councils recovering the full cost of the service? Have councils factored in a sufficient return on their capital, as well as considering the full cost of set up and rehabilitation?

### 3. Calculate the full cost for the various regional service options

Would a regional approach be less expensive than going it alone? Why?

Can a regional approach improve the service levels and environmental compliance?

Are local or regional approaches more likely to produce the most cost-effective outcomes?

LG Infrastructure Services uses full cost pricing and price path financial modelling to complete Step 3. This model is consistent with the Queensland Competition Authority's 'building blocks' approach.

# REGIONAL APPROACHES TO WASTE MANAGEMENT



**With a coordinated approach you can simplify access to State Government funding and approvals and reduce the environmental impact of your waste disposal.**

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

The broader benefits that regional waste collaboration can potentially bring to Queensland communities include:

- minimise waste disposed in landfills
- safer disposal practices
- lower greenhouse gas emissions
- better service standards for customers
- increased recycling and diversion opportunities
- improved management of the environment, and
- cost savings from improved planning and management of waste services.

## OUR SERVICES

LG Infrastructure Services can assist any local government that is interested in exploring new, innovative ways of delivering waste management projects. Whether you need us to manage a project, or to simply provide advice along the way, our skilled and experienced team can assist at any stage of the project lifecycle.

## CONTACT DETAILS

To discuss how LG Infrastructure Services can assist with your waste management services, contact **Troy Uren** on **07 3842 4944** or email **turen@lgis.com.au**

## ABOUT LG INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

LG Infrastructure Services is a joint initiative of the Local Government Association of Queensland and Queensland Treasury Corporation. The initiative was developed to address a need within local government for assistance in evaluating and delivering infrastructure in a cost effective and efficient manner.

LG Infrastructure Services works towards ensuring that the best value for money is achieved for local governments in infrastructure provision. This is achieved by improved bargaining power, increased economies of scale and the collective knowledge of Queensland's local governments.

Each project is approached in a consultative, flexible manner, and our services and advice are tailored to meet each council's individual needs—without taking control of the process.

LG Infrastructure Services can assist with any infrastructure project and specialises in water, waste management, roads, property, remote community support, and general commercial advice. Our key services include design and implementation of infrastructure solutions, project assurance reviews, commercial advisory services, and financial risk advisory services.

LG Infrastructure Services has proven itself to be a regional collaboration implementation partner of choice for local government, delivering a number of regional infrastructure programs on behalf of large groups of councils, and the State.

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