Cheaper to dump rubbish on the Coast

Sue Lappeman | June 14th, 2012

THE Gold Coast is about to become the dumping ground for NSW, with the removal of a waste levy about to make the trek into Queensland very profitable for southern rubbish removalists.

The LNP Government's election promise to remove the Bligh government's waste levy from July 1 has backfired on the Gold Coast, where tips will become more lucrative alternatives to those in NSW where a levy, which is about to be increased, has to be paid.

The $35 a tonne levy applies only to businesses and is charged on top of dump fees for commercial, construction and demolition waste.

Councils fought the levy when it was introduced last year and Campbell Newman earmarked its removal as a priority.

Southern skip operators are already talking about the money that can be saved from the anomaly between the two states.

A1 Skips owner Mick Mitchell, who operates between Southport and Ballina, said operators south of the border were all talking about how they would be able to save money.

Mr Mitchell, whose two 12-tonne trucks make up to 10 trips a day to tips, said NSW was putting its levy up next month as well as increasing tip fees.

"Everyone will be carting rubbish back up there (to the Gold Coast) if it's cheaper," Mr Mitchell said.

Opposition environment spokesperson Jackie Trad said the axing of the levy would turn Queensland into a dump for NSW.

"The LNP Government's axing of the levy will only encourage interstate businesses to dump their rubbish in Queensland, the only mainland state without a levy on non-domestic waste," she said.

Environment Minister Andrew Powell said the Government had promised to keep the cost of living down.

"That is why I have fully endorsed the Government's commitment to repeal the industry waste levy," he said.