



**Gabrielle Upton**  
Minister for the Environment

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **WASTE LEVY WAIVED FOR FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS**

Residents in six storm affected areas on the NSW North Coast will be exempt from paying the NSW Government's waste levy fee on flood and storm generated waste until 31 May 2017, NSW Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton said today.

The exemption applies to debris and waste created by last week's storm and flooding.

"Residents in these areas have a massive clean-up task ahead through no fault of their own," Ms Upton said.

"Waiving the fee will help people to dispose of their flood damaged goods quickly. This includes building materials and furniture, as well as other items which have been damaged or destroyed."

The six council areas exempt from the levy are Lismore, Ballina, Byron Bay, Richmond Valley, Kyogle and Tweed.

These six council areas have been declared Natural Disaster Declaration areas – the NSW Government will also waive the waste levy for any other areas added to the declaration.

Member for Lismore Thomas George said the NSW Government wanted to help residents get back on their feet as quickly as possible.

"We hope this eases some of the pressure people are feeling after these devastating floods," Mr George said.

"The NSW Government will extend the time the exemption is in place if people need more time."

Council waste facility gate fees might still apply. People should check with their local council for specific instructions for disposing of flood generated waste.

Waste facilities need to ensure the waste is storm and flood generated before they can waive the government's waste levy.