



**Gabrielle Upton**  
Minister for the Environment

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Tuesday, 21 February 2017

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

Residents in four bushfire Natural Disaster Declaration areas will be exempt from paying the NSW Government's waste levy fee on bushfire generated waste until 31 March 2017, NSW Environment Minister Gabrielle Upton announced today.

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

"Residents in these areas have a massive clean-up task ahead through no fault of their own - waiving our waste fee will help people to dispose of their bushfire damaged goods quickly and responsibly. This includes building materials and furniture as well as other bushfire generated waste," Ms Upton said.

"We hope this eases some of the pressure people are feeling after these devastating bushfires."

Council areas exempt from the levy are:

- Port-Macquarie Hastings Council
- Kempsey Shire Council
- Mid-Coast Council
- Upper Hunter Shire Council

Minister for Emergency Services Troy Grant said he welcomed this announcement.

"The Government is coordinating its approach to bushfire recovery to ensure affected communities can get back on their feet as quickly as possible," Mr Grant said.

Council waste facility gate fees might still apply. People should check with their council on specific requirements to dispose of bushfire damaged waste. Waste facilities need to ensure the waste is bushfire generated before they can waive the Government's waste levy.

There are three other council areas in the Natural Disaster Declaration area but they are not subject to the NSW waste levy.