

# SHANE KNUTH

Katter's Australian Party

Member for Hill



## MEDIA RELEASE

The Cassowary Coast region has had a major win with Northern Iron & Brass Foundry Pty Ltd (NIBF) being granted a 70 per cent exemption from the Waste Levy.

Increased cost had been a huge concern for the continued viability of the local foundry.

NIBF were in the firing line with increased electricity and waste levy costs which motivated Member for Hill Shane Knuth into raising their issue in parliament and seeking meetings with government departments and ministers.

On July 1, 2019 the Queensland Government introduced the Waste Levy which impacted NIBF, Innisfail's second largest employer.

Member for Hill Shane Knuth said he was excited by the announcement that NIBF was now approved for an exemption.

"This is a big win for the Innisfail region and the 78 employees that NIBF employ," Mr Knuth said.

"This exemption will go a long way in providing security and confidence in the future of NIBF.

"It is companies like this that are the backbone of our community in providing not only local jobs but also the foundry has a flow on affect to other businesses and community groups including sponsorships."

NIBF was established in 1934 and they manufacture items for the water, mining, railway and engineering industry. They also make large trucking parts.

NIBF operations manager Joe Vecchio said when the Waste Levy was introduced it put a big strain on the company.

"It has already cost us substantially this financial year. Based on last year's figures it was going to add another \$110,000 to our costs and that was something that we could not sustain," Mr Vecchio said.

"I got the good news last week that we are going to get a 70 per cent exemption to the waste levy.

"The main criteria that was taken into account when the applications was assessed, was the fact the NIBF recycled about 1,000 tonnes of scrap steel each year, which is a positive outcome for the Environment and reduces waste to landfill.

"Starting this week when our trucks go to Townsville, to dump waste, we will probably save between \$70,000 to \$80,000 a year which is a big deal and I am really grateful that the government has approved the exemption.

"Something like this, that can help keep our costs down, is really helpful for our future. It gives us time now to find other ways to dispose of our waste in the future.

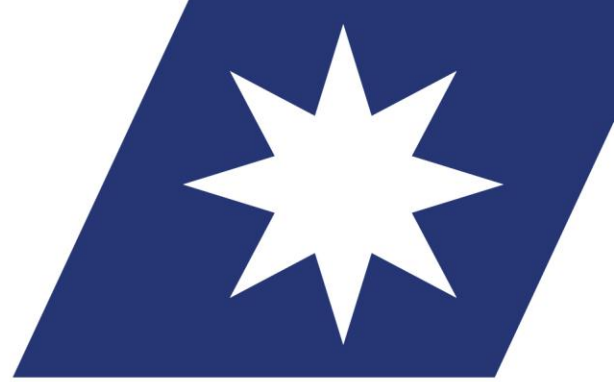
"This exemption is until June 30, 2022 so we have some time now to find some alternatives and the latest technology will help us move that waste in a different way moving forward."

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He said he was very grateful to Mr Knuth and his office for the hard work that they put in to help get the exemption across the line.

**Caption:** Member for Hill Shane Knuth and Northern Iron & Brass Foundry Pty Ltd (NIBF) operations manager Joe Vecchio are excited that the government has granted Innisfail NIBF with a 70 per cent exemption for the Waste Levy until June 30, 2022.

**-ENDS-**