



Speech by

# JOHN KINGSTON

MEMBER FOR MARYBOROUGH

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Hansard 30 May 2001

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

**Dr KINGSTON** (Maryborough—Ind) (8.42 p.m.): I join this debate on a somewhat different note to the previous two speakers, although the previous speaker has raised issues that are of concern to me. I do not have a problem with the time being extended, but I do have a problem with the non-advance in technology that is being made available to local government. I do have a problem that more and more of a load is being put on local governments.

We do not have an active institute of research dealing with this problem in Queensland, yet there are very active institutes in other countries. For instance, the Bedminster system takes sewage effluent and applies it to municipal waste. The product is usable as fertiliser. The harm to the environment is absolutely minimised. Another research methodology called Virotec has the ability to remove heavy metals and contaminants from leachate. The main problem with landfill is leachate.

As a state, we are not moving forward in this area of technology at all. I suggest very strongly to the minister, who is obviously not listening—

**Mr Wells:** I am parallel processing.

**Dr KINGSTON:** I apologise. This is an area of increasing concern. It is an area that needs up-to-date research and the application of modern methods that have already been adopted and applied successfully in other countries. In Queensland they have not been applied, and we are proceeding with landfill and all its concurrent problems.

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