



Speech by

Hon. D. WELLS

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBIDGE

Hansard 13 March 2003

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Recycling

Hon. D. M. WELLS (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Minister for Environment) (9.56 a.m.): Queenslanders are now recycling more than ever, according to the latest *State of Waste and Recycling* report for 2002. During 2002, Queenslanders recycled 150,449 tonnes of waste material through kerbside recycling bins and drop-off centres. Last year we recycled 6,140 tonnes of steel and aluminium cans, 48,855 tonnes of glass bottles and jars, 9,000 tonnes of plastic bottles and 86,413 tonnes of old newspapers and magazines.

Australia is the best country in the world at the recycling of newsprint. We are recycling more and we are recycling smarter. There is particularly good news for honourable members. The people's House is in order. My departmental officers recently conducted an audit of Parliament House practices. Mr Speaker, I am pleased to report that Parliament House has been given the green tick. I congratulate you, Mr Speaker, on your environmental achievements. Last year a total of 19,813 kilograms of paper, cardboard and other material were recycled, compared with five years earlier when 14,591 kilograms were recycled.

Queenslanders are doing well in recycling in their own homes, but that is only half the battle. Slowly but surely we are expanding our recycling strategies to public places. Last year I advised honourable members that Doomben racetrack was recycling betting slips, race guides, cans, bottles and other packaging and grass clippings. We are also looking at extending our recycling program to sporting stadiums. My department, the EPA, is involved in discussions with the Gabba administration to have a public place recycling program in operation by the first home match of the AFL season between the Lions and Essendon on 29 March. At that match between Brisbane and Essendon we will, we hope, recycle cans, bottles, packaging and, in a further exercise in environmental waste elimination, the Lions will eat the 'dons.

Mrs Edmond: Hear, hear!

Mr WELLS: I thank the honourable member. A similar program is planned for Suncorp stadium and we are continuing ongoing discussions with Queensland Rail for implementation of public place recycling at five railway stations across the city. Everyone can play their part in recycling. The figures in this report identify the best performing local government areas and offer an insight into the most efficient waste recycling systems and how they operate.

Brisbane, Redlands and Caloundra residents are to be congratulated on their enthusiastic participation in recycling last year. On average, each resident in these areas recycled more than 60 kilograms of material during the year. Also to be commended is Gatton shire for collecting the most paper and cardboard, Maroochy shire for glass, Cairns city for plastic bottles and Belyando shire for steel cans. May I commend the mayors and councils of these shires on their achievements. These results clearly demonstrate the support for recycling and the desire to create a better environment remains strong throughout Queensland—strong and growing.