



Speech by

Paul Hoolihan

MEMBER FOR KEPPEL

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CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA DAY

Mr HOOLIHAN (Keppel—ALP) (9.33 pm): I want to bring to the attention of all members of this House, if they were not involved, that Sunday, 5 March was Clean Up Australia Day. It is a sad indictment on our society that we have to have a Clean Up Australia Day. According to Ian Kiernan, the face of Clean Up Australia for the last 10 or 11 years, 700,000 volunteers worked on that Sunday and they collected 9,000 tons of rubbish Australia-wide. This rubbish was collected from our beaches, parks and camping areas. It was left there by people who could not care less about their environment and could not care less about their community. Aren't we really trying to make this nation into something of which people can be proud? We have to go out and clean up after people who are too lazy to take their rubbish with them.

On the Capricorn Coast in Rockhampton, which covers my electorate, the coordinator was Anthony White and his partner Leanne. We had people who cleaned all of the beaches on the Capricorn Coast and into North Rockhampton. The people who turn out are those who really have a great care for their own environment and a great care for their own community. I hope that every member of this House spent some time on Sunday cleaning up in their own area. It is high time that we took stock of those people who do not care. With reference to the motion tonight in relation to deposit return on containers, one of the things that really came home to me in the area where I was involved was the fact that PET plastic containers, particularly coke bottles, seemed to be the most popular rubbish to be tossed out of a car or to be dropped by people followed very closely by Red Rooster boxes or KFC boxes.

Mr Lee: KFC mainly.

Mr HOOLIHAN: Red Rooster in some places as well. People buy these and they see them as throw-aways and their first inclination when they cannot get near a bin is to either toss it out of the car or drop it where they walk.

I commend to every person that instead of a Clean Up Australia Day we have a Keep Australia Clean year, year after year. People should think before they drop rubbish; people should think before they throw rubbish out of a car. I commend to people the motto that was used for national parks at one stage—take only photographs and leave only footprints. Take your rubbish with you. I commend to everyone: do not rubbish Australia.