



Speech by  
**Ian Rickuss**

**MEMBER FOR LOCKYER**

Hansard Tuesday, 4 September 2007

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## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AMENDMENT BILL**

**Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—NPA) (5.46 pm): I rise to speak on the Environmental Protection Amendment Bill. I think that every member in the House supports this bill. No-one wants to see litter around our beautiful state of Queensland. The shadow minister has asked me to point out that authorised persons for the purpose of litter enforcement is stated in the library brief as police officers. I do not think that it is in the act but it seems to be in the library brief and so some members on this side have mentioned it in their contributions. To avoid any confusion I would ask that the minister clarify that in her speech in reply.

The Environmental Protection Act is very important. As the member for Cleveland and other members have said, everybody lives in a catchment. It does not matter whether we live in a river or creek catchment; every bit of litter can affect the environment further downstream, inland or even west of the Great Divide. All litter ends up somewhere.

I have known some great people who have done a lot of work in the anti-littering process. Around 25 years ago an old gentlemen I used to live near, Kenny Ogg, used to walk greyhounds every morning and his little project when walking his greyhounds was to pick up any litter on the side of the road. We always had a nice clean road because Ken was out walking his greyhounds and picking up the litter around the place. The Clean Up Australia Day event is held in the Gatton and Lockyer area every year. Brad Damrow, one of the council workers, always gives up his Sunday on Clean Up Australia Day and so do all the SES volunteers. They do a great job of organising groups around the Lockyer to help clean up Australia.

It is important that this legislation is acted on. We passed legislation in relation to disposing of needles in a public place and I do not think that anyone has been charged with that at all since the law was enacted. It is not much good making laws just to give us a warm fuzzy feeling in our bellies and not doing anything about it. I do hope that we see improvements there.

One of the real problems that everyone has mentioned is smokers. Smokers for some reason feel that it is their right to stamp out cigarettes on the footpath and walk away from them.

**Ms Nelson-Carr:** Not for long.

**Mr RICKUSS:** No, not for long. Smoking outside buildings has become a problem. Hopefully this legislation might clean that up and make people more responsible. Everyone on this side of the House supports the Environmental Protection Amendment Bill and so do I.