



Speech by

**Peter Wellington**

**MEMBER FOR NICKLIN**

Hansard Wednesday, 18 April 2007

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## **BIOREACTOR LANDFILL FACILITY; NICKLIN ELECTORATE, DENTAL HEALTH**

**Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (9.55 pm): This morning I read into the parliamentary record one of the many letters that I have received from my constituents and residents of Maroochy shire who are concerned about the council's proposal to build a bioreactor landfill facility without first consulting shire residents and asking them what their views were on the proposal to build the bioreactor dump in the shire or ascertaining if there were cheaper or other more appropriate options for consideration.

The Maroochy Shire Council cannot build and operate its proposed bioreactor landfill facility without first receiving the appropriate approvals from the state government. This then leads me to my call for the state government and the minister for the environment to research around the world to gather up-to-date information about the operations and management strategies for bioreactors before processing the council's application for the appropriate approvals.

The action committee which has been leading the charge against the bioreactor has been researching around the world, has been visiting other waste disposal facilities in Australia and certainly has some very real concerns about the Maroochy Shire Council's proposal.

The reason I raise this again tonight is not by way of criticism of the minister. I am simply attempting to draw to the minister's attention the real concern in the shire, and the real concern of many of my constituents that the departmental staff who process this application should be in possession of the most up-to-date and most recent information about the operation of bioreactors before they actually consider and process that application.

I also wish to draw to the government's attention my real concerns about the state of dental health in my electorate. I would urge the federal government and the leader of the federal opposition to actually reconsider the needs for dental health in Queensland and reconsider the needs for dental health on the Sunshine Coast. When I visit and speak with the dental officers in our schools they share with me some of their experiences about the state of dental decay and these are deeply concerning. More importantly, the senior people in our community who are in need of public dental health have significant concerns about the waiting lists. I urge the Prime Minister and the alternative prime minister to seriously consider this call for assistance to help the state government respond to the issue of dental health.