




Speech by
Jarrod Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

Hansard Tuesday, 11 October 2011

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BILL

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (9.50 pm): Tonight I rise to talk about the Waste Reduction and Recycling Bill. At the outset I say that the Queensland Labor government knows a lot about waste and recycling. We need only look at the front bench where for the past 20 years we have seen recycled minister after recycled minister

Mr Seeney: And a waste of space, too.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the honourable opposition leader. Let us talk about waste. This bill is about waste reduction. The Labor Party is about anything but waste reduction. It is just wasteful. Anything it touches, any bill that comes before this House, has waste in it because they are the chief wasters of the great resources and riches of this state. Let us look at the policy objectives of the bill. The explanatory notes state—

- promote waste avoidance and reduction
- reduce the overall impact of waste generation
- promote resource recovery and efficiency actions...

We should amend that to reflect two key elements. One policy objective is to tax Queenslanders more than they already are. The second objective should state: 'to make sure that Bob Brown and the Greens in Canberra know that we care for their party'. This Labor Party is the greens wrapped in red. After the 2009 election, the first bill we debated was the moratorium on regrowth. We are heading into an election. We are coming to the end of the term of this government and we have a bill in this House that supports the current member for Ashgrove and Green preference deals. This bill is about tax and Greens preferences.

I thank the shadow minister for his thorough examination of the bill. If members opposite have not worked it out, I reiterate that the opposition is opposing this bill, because now is not the time to tax Queenslanders and now is not the time to tax businesses. They call it a levy. The Labor Party does not have taxes anymore. It calls them levies and charges. Let us cut to the chase: it is a great big new tax from the Labor Party. Two weeks ago in this House we debated court taxes, court levies and court fees. Now we are debating a new tax whereby people can dump their rubbish but have to pay \$35 a tonne for doing so.

This legislation has impacts. The Labor Party wants to tax things. If we taxed the drivel that comes from the mouths of every Labor Party member, we would be able to pay off the \$85 billion debt that they have given us. Tonight we have heard a lot of drivel from the member for Everton, and I suspect we will hear more from the member for Morayfield in a couple of speeches time. As the honourable Leader of the Opposition said when he tabled documents, if we are going to come into this parliament and have a debate about waste reduction, let us have a serious debate and have all the documents placed on the table. The member for Everton, channelling Eamonn Fitzpatrick, came in here and tabled a few selected documents. He then turned as bright red as a tomato when the opposition leader tabled other documents. Probably he was thinking, 'I wish Eamonn told me about those documents.'

I will refer in particular to one of the tabled documents. I direct it straight back to the member for Everton, the member for Morayfield and the member for Pumicestone. It is the council of mayors

advertisement in the *Courier-Mail*. The advertisement asks a number of questions, one of which is 'Do you intend to introduce a waste levy?' The Labor Party said no and the LNP said no. Has the LNP introduced a waste levy? In the past three years have we presented a private member's bill to introduce a waste levy? No. Has the Labor Party? Of course it has, just as there were to be no asset sales, just as the fuel tax was not going to be introduced and just as a carbon tax was not going to be introduced. Before the election, Julia Gillard said, 'There will be no carbon tax under the government I lead.' No longer can we distinguish between the incompetence of the federal Labor Party and that of the state Labor Party.

The toxic Labor of New South Wales has crept into Queensland. Queenslanders are worried and they should be worried. The member for Everton's constituents should be worried, because in 2009 as a candidate he went to his constituents and said, 'I will not support a waste levy.' The Labor Party signed the dotted line and said no. In 2009 the member for Everton went to the election and told his constituents, 'I will not support a waste levy', just as the member for Morayfield did. What is it going to be? What is the member for Everton going to say to his constituents tomorrow morning when they wake up and find that they have a waste levy? What will the member for Everton say to the retirement villages and the Community Titles Institute? This will impact not just on businesses; this will impact on all Queenslanders. The constituents of the member for Morayfield and the member for Everton will be paying this.

I will give members a practical example, referring to retirement villages or community title villages. In my electorate there is an over-50s retirement village where they are recycling as we speak. They have used proactive measures, without government intervention. Queenslanders are smart enough to work out what can be recycled. Yes, education campaigns would assist them, but they are smart enough. This village in my electorate has cancelled individual waste bins and on a weekly basis they invest in a large skip bin. Now they will be punished by the Queensland Labor Party for cancelling the 200 green wheelie bins that they would use ordinarily. Each week, the members of this over-50s retirement village walk down to the skip bin and put their rubbish bags into them. Now the Labor Party is going to slug them for that. While the legislation has commercial implications for business in Queensland, it also has implications for every Queenslanders who lives in an over-50s retirement village and who wants to recycle and use commonsense to reduce waste in their village by investing to save money, but now they will be slugged \$35 a tonne.

Business in Queensland can least afford this. On the outside of my electorate in the electorate of the honourable member for Caloundra, we have the Caloundra Resource Recycle Recovery Centre. Years ago, the council stopped the open landfill site and implemented a system where you bring rubbish in, it is sorted and most of it is taken out and sold at a trash and trade market on Saturday. The council is well and truly ahead of the game in terms of recycling and these initiatives. The Labor Party and the state government do not need to impose this on the councils, the businesses and the people in my electorate.

Not only do people have to pay to drop off rubbish, the Sunshine Coast Regional Council will also charge you for dropping off green waste. It used to be free to drop off green waste. Now you drop off green waste at the Caloundra Resource Recycle Recovery Centre and they will sell it back to you after they have mulched it and composted it. No longer is it cheap to have waste in Queensland. This extra burden is an incentive for people to illegally dump. If people have to pay to drop off green waste and other additional costs, they will find it far easier to illegally dump their rubbish.

During this debate the member for Everton has been very loud. In fact, the member for Cairns stood in this place and said she loudly and proudly supports the waste levy. On 14 March 2009, a few days before the election, what was the member for Cairns saying to her constituents? In answer to the question, 'Do you intend to introduce the waste levy?', the Labor Party said no.

How can that member stand in this place tonight and say that she loudly and proudly supports a waste levy when 2½ years ago those opposite said they would not do it? They said they would not sell our assets. They have form in this regard. Queenslanders have stopped believing anything that comes out of their mouths. They know that when the member for Ashgrove opens her mouth it is going to lead to higher rates and charges and taxes hitting the hip pockets of Ashgrove residents. They know that when every member opposite votes for this type of legislation in this House it is going to hit their hip pocket and cost them more. It is all disguised by climate change. The honourable member for Mudgeeraba rightly says that they are carbon tax deniers on the other side. That is exactly what they are.

Across Queensland people are paying so much now in fuel, registration, court and water costs. The asset sales have meant more debt. Everything has gone up. Now people will be slugged with this Labor Party waste tax. The government should be condemned for it.