



Speech by


## Darren Grimwade

MEMBER FOR MORAYFIELD

Hansard Wednesday, 11 July 2012

---

### WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING AMENDMENT REGULATION (NO. 1): DISALLOWANCE

 **Mr GRIMWADE** (Morayfield—LNP) (7.44 pm): I rise tonight to speak against the disallowance motion moved by the member for South Brisbane. It simply astounds me that the member has moved this motion tonight and again attempts to kick small business owners—the people who employ millions of people throughout Queensland—right in the guts and attempts to increase the cost of living for all Queenslanders alike. This levy, like most levies, was introduced in this House by the previous government simply to raise taxation in an attempt to pay for Labor's woeful financial record. We have already heard about Labor's woeful financial record, which this tax was designed to assist, in that it already has a forecast \$100 billion debt on the books in Queensland. The state's debt spiralled out of control, and then Treasurer Andrew Fraser—who is now bearded up and hiding away—looked at ways to increase taxation in Queensland with levies and charges et cetera to pay for Labor's wasteful spending.

I want to provide the House with some local examples of how the waste levy would stifle employment opportunities and increase the cost of living for all Queenslanders, seniors and pensioners the hardest way possible. I will put some reality back into this debate tonight when I give the House examples of how employment opportunities and pensioners living in aged-care facilities will be the hardest hit by this disallowance motion. I start with a local business in Narangba, and I know the member for South Brisbane knows Narangba quite well. Throughout my campaign I visited a business called Kennedy's Aged Timbers. This business is another family-run business run by a man who is passionate about growing his business, providing employment opportunities for locals and looking after the environment. Kennedy's Aged Timbers consists of a team of passionate timber specialists who have been supplying recycled and ecosustainable timbers to the commercial and residential building industry since 1995 as an Australian family-run business. This business, which, I might add, recycles timbers to make its products, will be significantly impacted in its operational cost and subsequent opportunity to offer employment by this levy. This levy will give a free kick, in fact, to the rainforest sawmills of South-East Asia and will also see an explosion of imported timbers that will have a distinct market advantage over our recycled timber industry in Queensland.

The member for South Brisbane claims to be an environmental champion, but all the member is doing by moving this disallowance motion is effectively championing the destruction of rainforests in South-East Asia by making it more attractive for businesses to access wood from Asia rather than recycle wood here. This is a perfect example of yet another business that is doing the right thing by Queenslanders in that it is offering employment opportunities and looking after the environment all in one. This business would be hammered under Labor's waste levy reforms. I will not stand here as a member of this parliament and allow small business to be hammered by Labor's policy as contained in this disallowance motion moved tonight.

I want to provide another local example of how this bill will impact the cost of living in our community. The Moreton Bay Regional Council has made it very clear that the waste levy will actually result in an extreme administrative cost to that council. Despite what the member for South Brisbane claimed earlier—

that councils will be provided with additional funds and will be financially better off—the Moreton Bay Regional Council has said that it will actually be \$800,000 worse off in administration costs alone. This is yet another cost that council would have to pass on to its local ratepayers, further increasing the cost of living for all Queenslanders.

I was interested to hear the mover of this motion, the member for South Brisbane, make critical comments in relation to the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection on his green-tape reduction bill. She made reference to the minister 'off-loading' costs onto local governments. Effectively what this levy does is push this cost and red tape onto local government that will no doubt have to be passed onto ratepayers, again increasing the cost of living for all Queenslanders.

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! The member for South Brisbane will cease interjecting. You have had a really good go. You have made a speech. I want to hear the member for Morayfield.

**Mr GRIMWADE:** Thank you for your protection. Clearly those on my right cannot behave themselves. Effectively what this levy has done is push up the cost of red tape and increase local government costs.

I finish tonight by providing one more example of how this levy will impact on the local community and the cost of living of elderly pensioners. The introduction of this levy will increase the waste charges paid by residential aged-care facilities by at least 35 per cent, a massive increase in cost that will again be passed onto residents. During my election campaign I joined the then shadow Treasurer—now thankfully the Treasurer of Queensland—in a visit to a local aged-care facility. The waste levy was discussed with residents and they were concerned that this tax would mean an increase in cost-of-living charges. Several residents actually pleaded with me throughout that meeting to reduce the cost of living, and I gave a commitment to do exactly that. Since being in this place that is what this side of government has done through a number of measures that are already on the record.

In summing up, I will never stand in this place and support legislation that will deliberately increase cost of living, destroy Queensland jobs and kick small business owners right in the guts. It is for this reason that I will not be supporting this motion before the House tonight.