



Speech By  
**Hon. Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Litter and Illegal Dumping Action Plan**

 **Hon. AC POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection) (2.25 pm): I am pleased to advise the House of the release of Queensland's first litter and illegal dumping action plan. Waste is everyone's responsibility. The choices we make every day as individuals in relation to our waste can have a dramatic impact on the environment. That holds true not only for recycling or trying to limit the generation of waste but also for littering and illegal dumping.

This action plan shows that the Newman government is serious about reducing litter across Queensland. We are committed to improving everyone's local environment the length and breadth of this state. Sadly, throwing a cigarette butt out of the car window, leaving behind tangled fishing line at the beach, depositing unwanted household goods outside a charity bin and dumping rubbish in bushland happens every day. These are all choices made by some individuals, yet all have a collective impact on the community, the environment and our economy. At the end of the day, we all pay to remove litter and illegal dumping from our urban and natural environments.

On Labor's watch, Queensland became the most littered mainland state. But the previous Labor government ignored calls for a campaign to reverse that trend. Instead, in true Labor form, it had a different way of handling it. You guessed it: a new tax. And guess what? That led to even more illegal dumping and littering. That was evident when earlier in the year I participated in the Clean Up Australia Day event held within my own electorate at HQPlantations at Beerburum. I was shocked to see the amount of material that was being dumped in that forest. Approximately 26 tonnes of dumped material was removed from the forest in just half a day. It is a habit that we need to break.

The Newman government is a government that is determined to tackle these hard issues. We are a government that is committed to action, not rhetoric. This action plan is not just about strengthening our compliance activity and fining people for littering and illegal dumping; rather, it aims to prevent unacceptable behaviour occurring in the first place. The action plan has five key programs to address these issues: compliance, hot spots, education and awareness raising, data research and mapping, and capacity building of local governments and land managers. Funding of \$5.6 million has been committed over four years with some actions already being implemented, including the first round of equipment grants to assist local governments to purchase surveillance cameras; the training and resources for local governments to improve their investigation skills; piloting a hot spot program, incredibly successfully, with HQPlantations; community education partnerships with leading community groups such as Keep Queensland Beautiful, the Garage Sale Trail and Healthy Waterways; and making the reporting of litter and illegal dumping easier with the release of a mobile phone reporting app.

Rubbish dumped in our streets, at the local reserve or in the local creek is unacceptable. Encouraging more people to express community pride and take action to influence the few who damage our open spaces will be key to this plan. I look forward to announcing further successes of this action plan in the future.