




Speech By  
**Mark Boothman**

**MEMBER FOR ALBERT**

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**WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING AND OTHER LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (5.02 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on this bill. This legislation is well overdue. It finally removes Labor's waste tax. Labor's waste reduction and recycling legislation was nothing more than a tax. It certainly was a blight on Queenslanders. The introduction of a waste tax on business and households was another blow to the struggling domestic economy, which was already overregulated in terms of environmental legislation. This bill completely repeals the waste tax by removing the head of power for a levy and redundant provisions in relation to the calculation of this job-destroying tax. The constituents of the Albert electorate certainly can now breathe a sigh of relief that this tax on household and business budgets has been committed to the vaults of history.

This tax could not have been introduced at a worse time. At the moment, Europe is getting close to experiencing a double-dip recession. The economy of the United States is still in a very precarious position. This waste tax was certainly a new tax on vulnerable small businesses. Our current federal Labor government is continuing to hit small businesses with the carbon tax, which is set artificially high at \$23 a tonne. In Europe, the carbon price has fallen through the floor. It has gone down to about \$5 a tonne. These taxes are killing businesses. They are killing jobs and they are certainly killing development.

In relation to the argument that the repeal of this waste tax is not helping recycling at all, that is a load of rubbish. I have a recycling business in my electorate called Phoenix Power Recyclers, which is booming. It is looking for—

**Mr Powell:** It shouldn't need a waste tax. They didn't have a waste tax.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Yes, exactly. They are not even worried about the carbon tax going. This business is booming. It is producing mulch pits and it is recycling green waste. Many local councils in the area are selling their green waste and that company is making a fortune out of it, so much so that it is wishing to expand its business. I can certainly inform the member for Condamine that when it comes to green initiatives for funding, the federal government has the ARENA grants—

**Mr Hopper:** Try and inform me after the next election.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Furthermore, if the LNP wins the next federal election it has said that it is going to continue the ARENA grants. So there is funding for these initiatives. So if you want to speak to your businesses, go for it, mate.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Ruthenberg): Order! Member for Albert, would you please address your comments through the chair.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, my apologies. In times of global uncertainty, the government's primary purpose is to reduce the financial burden on individuals and to create measures to promote business. We are here to help businesses, we are here to strengthen businesses and we are here to get people into jobs. The creation of a new levy or tax only fosters resentment in those who work hard for every cent they earn. It creates the philosophy of, 'All I do is work for the tax man.'

The bill continues to fight to reduce the burden of green tape that has been forced upon the community. The amendments to the Coastal Protection and Management Act will allow low-risk development to proceed with a set of standard criteria, thus negating the need for a development application. As I doorknock my electorate at least a couple of times a week, I can certainly say that the Albert electorate is the home of the boatie. My electorate has pleasure craft all over the place.

**Mr Costigan** interjected.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** People in the Whitsundays would be jealous of the number of boats there are in the Albert electorate. The amendments to the Coastal Protection and Management Act will certainly not weaken environmental outcomes.

Most importantly, this legislation provides additional flexibility to the agricultural sector. Life on the land can be tough at the best of times. Circumstances will arise where it is not viable to continue with a particular crop. That is an all-too-common theme for farmers. Operators will now be able to suspend their operations if they feel that it is not viable and there are no ongoing environmental management issues to contend with. Certainly, in recent times farmers have had enough to contend with the floods, especially in the Burnett region, so they need a helping hand. This legislation goes a long way to making life on the land just that little bit more bearable. As somebody who grew up on a hobby farm that grew avocados, I certainly understand the frustrations and the harsh realities of life on the land.

I wish to thank the minister and his department for their continued work on reducing the green-tape burden on our community. I am proud to support this bill. I am certainly proud to be a part of this proactive government. I certainly thank the minister for all his hard work and all the information that he has given me.