




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR DALRYMPLE

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

 **Mr KNUTH** (Dalrymple—KAP) (4.59 pm): The Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2012 completes the repeal of the waste levy introduced by the former Labor government in December 2011 and reduces regulatory and administrative requirements on landfill operators, local government and state entities. I thank my fellow committee members for the work that they have done on this bill and congratulate the government on removing this costly legislation. In a time when our economy is slowing and people are struggling to make ends meet, it is important that we all take stock of what is important and how to achieve environmental outcomes without producing unnecessary regulations.

In past years we have seen an increasing number of environmental regulations that have placed significant strain on Queensland's industry with little or no evidence of their impact on environmental problems. The truth is that these regulations had more impact on our social and economic wellbeing and have been disastrous, particularly for our agricultural industry jobs and regional communities. The removal of the weighbridge requirements for waste disposal sites under 10 tonnes will reduce the burden on smaller local governments and landfill operators who are struggling the most with the accumulation of bureaucracy and paperwork that is burying small business and small councils. At a time when the government is implementing cost-cutting measures, I think it deserves recognition for fulfilling an election commitment to get rid of the waste levy even though it eliminates \$96 million from the state budget.

Issues regarding the cross-border transport of waste from New South Wales into Queensland were raised during the committee process through submissions. I believe that the reduction of environmental bureaucracy is the area where Queensland can lead the way and I hope that New South Wales sees the light in removing cumbersome and ineffective levies and paperwork that achieve no measurable environmental benefit whatsoever. Another potential solution to the issue is the application of tariffs on cross-border waste transport. I will be suggesting that to the inquiry into the development of a new waste strategy for Queensland.

These days, in public policy there is so much environmental regulation that it is hard to keep track of how much environmental policies are costing the economy and it is even harder to determine how effective they are in improving the environment. The submission by the Waste, Recycling Industry Association contained valid warnings about ensuring that the review of waste disposal policies be coordinated and developed in close consultation with stakeholders. I believe that that submission should be heeded and that the government ensures that those who are most affected by changes to waste disposal legislation receive appropriate time frames to make a contribution to the inquiry into waste disposal in Queensland. Lastly, it is anticipated that the new waste management strategy will be in place by June 2014. I urge this government to ensure that there will be no waste levies reintroduced full stop. I commend the bill to the House.