



Speech By  
**Andrew Powell**


**MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE**

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## ADJOURNMENT

### Container Refund Scheme and Plastic Bag Ban Forum

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.03 pm): Last Thursday it was a real privilege to host an information evening for Glass House individuals, business and indeed community groups regarding the pending introduction of a single-use plastic bag ban and container refund scheme in the state of Queensland. At the outset I want to acknowledge and thank Toby Hutcheon from Boomerang Alliance for coming along and assisting and providing information on the evening. I also acknowledge Kellie Lindsay, who behind the scenes assisted my staff in pulling together the evening. It was much appreciated that in his opening comments Toby acknowledged the fact that it was the LNP who led the way in announcing that we would support both a single-use plastic bag ban and a container refund scheme and in so doing allowed the government the opportunity and the confidence to bring that legislation forward that will see that occur next year.

We spent a bit of time talking about the plastic bag ban. Fortunately, in the electorate of Glass House many of the businesses have already made the step of phasing out plastic bags and have replaced them with a number of other options. It gave one of the participants who came along that evening—Anna de Oliveira from Boomerang Bags, Beerwah—an opportunity to talk about the work that she and her colleagues are doing with regard to recycled material being used to make recycled bags.

Obviously the main focus of the evening—given that many people had come from schools such as Australian Christian College, Maleny State School and Eudlo State School and organisations such as Maleny Commerce, Rotary Maleny, Beerwah Lions and the Maleny neighbourhood centre—was the container deposit scheme. Again, I want to give special acknowledgement to Rod Cullen from Scouts Queensland who was present and largely focused on the role they may play.

Whilst there will be collection points at shopping centres, including reverse vending machines, and there will be ongoing collection depots at council and commercial premises, opportunities for organisations like Scouts will also exist where they can become a community based collection site. Individuals can donate bottles and cans to community groups or charities and organisations like Scouts could collect them and everyone wins. One school worked out that, if they recycled every single bottle and can that they sell through their tuckshop, they are well on their way to making \$25,000 straight up each and every year, so it is rather exciting.

I want to acknowledge everyone who came along and thank them for their time. It is an exciting opportunity that I know many in the electorate of Glass House will be looking to take up and working with the organisations who will be ultimately stewarding that. I look forward to seeing it coming to Glass House very soon.