




Speech By
Jarrold Bleijie

MEMBER FOR KAWANA

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WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (7.58 pm): In supporting the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill before the House tonight, I reflect on how this will impact upon the Kawana electorate, not only local community organisations but also the environment. When we have looked at this issue in the Liberal National Party for the past 12 months we looked at two aspects of this debate: firstly, looking after the environment and how we can better protect the environment, particularly with respect to plastic bags and making sure that fewer are used and fewer go into the ocean and also with respect to bottles and cans, particularly plastic water bottles, and making sure they do not end up in our oceans and on our streets—because we know that litter and rubbish go down the stormwater drains and into the ocean.

The first element I am particularly interested in is how we can better protect our local environment on the Sunshine Coast. The second element, particularly for the container deposit scheme, is how our young children in P&C associations, Neighbourhood Watch groups and scout groups can become little entrepreneurs and make money out of selling the containers.

Mr Cramp: Good capitalists.

Mr BLEIJIE: Indeed. I take the interjection. With the good capitalism in these young individuals, they might be able to make some money from this. The member for Glass House commented that people have recalled these schemes in the past but perhaps he was too young for that. I recall a recycling scheme in New South Wales, but now I am not sure whether it was just my father giving me money for picking up bottles and so forth or if it was actually a scheme that I was involved in in New South Wales. Nonetheless, my family brought me up in a way where we believed that if we recycled there would be some benefit from that. Of course, with the entrepreneur in me, I want to see that particularly in the Kawana community.

I see great opportunities for local organisations, both environment organisations and community organisations. When I announced the LNP policy locally in Kawana on the banks of Currimundi Creek, we had Narelle and the representatives of the Sunshine Coast Environment Council as well as Tony Moorhead, who is the president of the Currimundi Catchment Care Group. These two fantastic organisations, together with Friends of Currimundi Lake, strive with all of their volunteers to look after a particularly important catchment on the Sunshine Coast, being the Currimundi catchment area. I want to pay tribute to the Sunshine Coast Environment Council and Narelle for coming down to Currimundi Lake on that day. They supported the LNP's announcement of the introduction of the container deposit scheme. It is good that the government then followed suit and we have the debate in parliament tonight for the introduction of this scheme from next year. We were joined at that press conference by Tony Moorhead from the Currimundi Catchment Care Group.

I want to pay particular tribute to two groups and their volunteers which look after the Currimundi Lake area and that whole catchment—that is, the Currimundi Catchment Care Group and Friends of Currimundi Lake. I want to firstly talk about the Currimundi Catchment Care Group and I mention Tony

Moorhead and his partner, Kaye Brown. Tony has been the president for a number of years. They are tireless in their efforts to make sure they do all they can, including rubbish collections at the lake, street rubbish collections and national tree days where they plant trees all around that area.

I want to pay particular tribute in the Currimundi Catchment Care Group to David and Jenny Allan. When I was first elected to parliament in 2009, David was the president of the Currimundi Catchment Care Group. They have done an enormous amount of work for our communities with respect to the environment. They have shown dedication, passion and commitment over many, many years to our Sunshine Coast community. Tony Moorhead now continues that work in a challenging environment where it is hard to get volunteers and it is hard to get volunteers to hand out brochures.

I see the container deposit scheme as a great opportunity to add to what the Currimundi Catchment Care Group and the Friends of Currimundi Lake are doing. All of their volunteers are doing great work to make sure that not only is Currimundi Lake clean but also the public are educated about what to do and what not to do in the lake. For instance, the '6 knots-no wash' campaign has educated people that they should not go more than six knots because that has a tremendous detrimental impact on the erosion on the side of the lakes. They have had coir log wall campaigns where they have put up natural log walls rather than rock walls to stop erosion or prevent erosion. They have had their national tree days, together with Ron Burnett and the great work that the Parklands Community Group is doing.

I want to pay particular tribute to the late Dot Billingham, who was one of the founders of the Parklands Community Group. I was a neighbour of Dot's. She has unfortunately passed away from cancer, but Dot's legacy continues now with council naming the local park after her—the Dot Billingham Park. The president of the Parklands Community Group is now Mr Ron Burnett, and it is great to see all of these local environmental groups working together.

I took my son, Jasper, and my daughter Madison for a walk near Parklands in the bush on the weekend. There was a sign which was put up for National Tree Day in 2009 when I was a candidate for the election. We had planted little native trees as seedlings and those trees are now three times my height and five times the height of my children. Schools like Talara, Meridan State College and Kawana Waters State College participated in that event and now we have thousands and thousands of trees because of the Parklands Community Group.

The Kawana Forest Residents' Association had their AGM on the weekend. I want to pay tribute to Greg Chambers, who after a few years at the helm as president is retiring. We get their notices every fortnight with the clean-up working bees and the weed-busting exercises they are doing. These community groups do not exist unless we have the wonderful volunteers like we do in Kawana making sure they are run administratively effectively. They are ensuring that their community knows about it but, again, they are struggling to get members. It is unfortunate that sometimes our communities take for granted what we have and the volunteers in these wonderful organisations. I would encourage more Kawana residents to join these associations, just like the Kawana Island Residents Association led by John and the great work they are doing up there.

Toby Hutcheon from Boomerang Alliance has been acknowledged by the member for Glass House. I spoke to Toby only today. I had been corresponding with Toby in relation to having a forum where his organisation, which is funded by the department, would come and talk to my residents and groups in a bipartisan approach, not a political approach. Toby assures me this is what his presentation is. I welcome Toby to the Kawana community where he can talk to our local church groups, our soccer groups, our sporting groups, our scout groups and the Girl Guides—like the Kawana Scouts, the Kawana soccer club, the Kawana Park Eagles and the P&C associations at Meridan, Talara, Kawana, Pacific Lutheran College, Buddina State School, Chancellor State College and Siena. I also mention all of our wonderful Neighbourhood Watch groups.

I see this as a real opportunity for young people to not only clean the environment but also make money for their associations. I see this as an old-fashioned way of campaigning and raising funds, but at the same time the young people will learn about money and the environment. If we can educate this young generation going through that it is better to recycle the plastic bottles and offer some incentive and not utilise plastic bags, we will all live in a far better world than what we live in now with the rubbish around the place at the moment. Sometimes we have to offer some incentives in these situations and I hope the young people will be encouraged by the incentive. I see this as a real opportunity for these young people in the Kawana Scouts group, the Kawana Girl Guides, our other Neighbourhood Watch groups and the P&Cs.

I am educated on the environment, but my children who are at school are learning far more about the environment and the human impact on the environment these days than what we ever learnt at school. If we can change the habits of younger people—indeed, if we can change the habits of older people and all people—then the communities we live in will be far greater.

I thank Toby Hutcheon and the Boomerang Alliance for the support they have given to not only the LNP but the government to make sure this finally gets across the line. I look forward to the introduction of the container deposit schemes in Queensland. I look forward to working with all of our wonderful community organisations that I have mentioned in Kawana. They are already committed to putting great efforts into our environment, but they will put in even greater efforts now, particularly with the incentives for young people. This will encourage people to recycle and look after our environment so we can leave it in a better place than what it is today.