




Speech By
Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe

MEMBER FOR SANDGATE

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WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (8.08 pm): I am pleased to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling Amendment Bill 2017. I thank the Minister for Environment for bringing this bill forward. Representing and living in the beautiful bayside electorate of Sandgate, I am very aware of the negative impact litter, particularly plastic litter, can have on land, in our waterways and most particularly in my local environment on the bay. It is important for individuals and businesses to actively make changes to reduce litter—and our waste stream more generally—and increase recycling to preserve our communities for the future. The amendments within this bill focus on two key initiatives to achieve these goals. The bill aims to decrease litter by banning single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags and by encouraging recycling through a beverage container refund scheme.

My constituents on the whole are particularly mindful and aware of their impact on the environment, but we can always do more and this bill aims to do just that. The Palaszczuk government committed at the last election to investigate restrictions on single-use plastic bags and options for a container deposit scheme and this bill puts those commitments into action. The aims of this bill are already being supported in my electorate of Sandgate with local businesses including our local farmers' markets stall replacing plastic bags with paper bags.

I would also like to particularly acknowledge the Nashville State School P&C, including President Lynda Bundock, in my electorate who is bringing the two key objectives of the bill together by proudly selling re-usable recycled produce bags to replace single-use plastic bags. These re-usable bags come in a convenient holder pouch so people can take them with them each time they go to do their grocery shopping. These bags are made from 100 per cent recycled plastic bottles. They let water and air flow through and have an easy zip for closing. Nashville State School P&C sales of these bags are not only raising funds for a new school playground but also helping our community and environment. There are great examples in this bill of how we can see the benefits for the community and benefits for our environment come together.

I want to commend the work that has gone into developing this bill and providing the opportunities that it will deliver to each and every one of the people in our community, but most particularly the range of community organisations that it will help and assist. I acknowledge that a number of contributors to the debate tonight and this afternoon have made comment about how we have come so far and how changes in the way that people regard and think about waste in our community have changed so much. I reflect upon this in my lifetime. I often say to people that if Clem Jones had said to the people of Brisbane in the mid-seventies, 'From tomorrow you're going to have to sort your rubbish into two different kinds of rubbish. You're going to have to take it out to the footpath and it will only get collected once a week,' there would have literally been a riot in the streets of Brisbane. We have come a long way and this bill is evidence of how we are doing more to think sensibly about waste in our community and making sure that recycling and prevention of that waste in the first place are a key part of what we do. I commend the bill to the House.