




Speech By
Andrew Powell

MEMBER FOR GLASS HOUSE

Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2018

MOTION: NEW CHUM, WASTE FACILITY

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (6.30 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I have been sitting here listening for the last half an hour. I listened with interest to the contributions by the member for Woodridge and, more recently, by the member for Ipswich West. Quite frankly, being schooled on ministerial call-in powers by Labor is like being lectured on cleanliness by my 16-year-old son.

Quite seriously, we have here the paramount hypocrisy of the Palaszczuk Labor government. It suits their purposes to ignore their amended motion moved this evening when the project occurs in the electorate of the member for South Brisbane. It suits those opposite to ignore their amended motion moved this evening when it occurs in the electorate of the member for Cooper. What is going on when it occurs in the electorate of the poor member for Bundamba and that of her neighbouring colleagues, the members for Ipswich and Ipswich West? Poor Jo! I look forward to the member for Bundamba's contribution in this regard very shortly.

In every other situation we ignore the council. In this situation we are being asked to note that it is the Ipswich City Council that is the assessment agency for BMI Group's application for a waste facility at New Chum. It was the Brisbane City Council's responsibility for both West Village and Cedar Woods, but that is different. I note that the Ipswich City Council has not requested the state to exercise its call-in powers and neither did the Brisbane City Council. I note that the Ipswich City Council has the power to approve or reject applications to expand existing or establish new waste facilities.

That is fine, except that the member for Bundamba says, 'I don't trust the council to deal with the dump.' That comes from an article in the *Queensland Times*. I am happy to table that article.

Tabled paper. Article from the *Queensland Times*, dated 14 March 2018, titled 'MILLER SLAMS: I don't trust council to deal with the dump' [\[409\]](#).

If the member for Bundamba does not trust the council to deal with this dump, then surely this is a prime example of where the minister should be calling in this project, making an assessment and ruling it out.

It is clear that there is one rule for the member for South Brisbane, one rule for the member for Cooper and another rule for the member for Bundamba. We have seen that over the course of the last three years. The poor member for Bundamba misses out again. Let us cut to the chase. They are using these superdumps in Ipswich as justification for reintroducing a waste tax in this state.

I listened this morning to my record as environment minister being muddled. Let me correct the record. Too right we got rid of that tax. It was a tax on each and every household. It was a tax that we committed to getting rid of as an election commitment, and we did. Where was their election promise to introduce a waste tax? There was nothing. It has popped up today so that the Premier and Treasurer can now stand up and say, 'We are introducing five taxes.'

I notice this morning that the Premier referred to a chart from her report into the change in volume of waste coming from other states. She had a look at the chart and I think she was going to table it, but then she realised something: it does not help her case—not at all. It does the opposite. It supports

everything the LNP did during its term in government in terms of getting rid of this waste tax. It shows that in 2013-14 interstate waste was about 400,000 tonnes. In 2014-15, after we had implemented our waste strategy, it dropped down to around 330,000 tonnes. There was a change of government at the start of 2015 and it skyrocketed to nearly 600,000 tonnes. Last year it was 900,000 tonnes. The issue was not the LNP getting rid of the waste tax. I table that chart.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, depicting graph titled 'Figure 1: Change in volume of waste from other States transported into Queensland since the year ending 30 June 2014' [\[410\]](#).

The issue is that the Palaszczuk Labor government has forgotten how to comply. They have locked their environmental officers up behind their desks. They are not letting them out. They have tied them up in green tape and red tape and all the while Ipswich City Council—their Labor mates—have been approving superdumps left, right and centre with no compliance. It is quite simple. We do not need a tax in Cairns or Mackay or the Sunshine Coast for a problem in Ipswich. Simply call in this project and rule it out—problem solved.