



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 20 March 2018

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

**Waste**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (9.45 am): Today the Palaszczuk government is drawing a line in the sand for waste in Queensland. Waste management is not just an essential service; it is also an important contributor to the economy. Nationally, the waste industry employs about 50,000 people across Australia and contributes about \$15 billion to our national economy. While certainly there are challenges facing both the industry and government when it comes to waste management in this state, I believe there are also great opportunities. However, without key drivers to recover resources, Queensland will miss out on the available job and market opportunities and continue to be a dumping ground for interstate waste.

Queensland is a major underperformer in waste recovery by both national and international standards. We are also the recipient of the largest quantities of waste from interstate, not to mention that putting so much of our waste into landfill creates avoidable environmental problems. Add to this the recent headlines about China tightening its rules on imported waste and one can see some of the challenges we face. However, I am confident that we can turn those challenges into opportunities for growth and investment.

As the Premier said earlier, to achieve this the Palaszczuk government will work closely with Queensland's waste sector, local government and stakeholders to develop a strong pathway forward. We will work to develop a strategy that will set a new direction for waste management in Queensland and provide clarity and certainty for investment and business planning. It will be a strategy that will allow us to build a diverse and sustainable waste management industry that delivers long-term value to our environment, new jobs for our communities and confidence to invest in Queensland.

We only have to look at the numbers to see that with the right strategy the waste industry has the potential to be a growing part of Queensland's economy. As the Premier said, we know that every 10,000 tonnes of waste in landfill supports only about 2.8 jobs, but if that same 10,000 tonnes of waste was recycled it would support approximately 9.2 jobs. To do that we need to understand and change how we as a community use our resources. The push to find new ways to avoid producing waste and to recycle material or use it to recover energy has never been more important. We need to think smarter and recognise that waste has a material value and that that value presents significant opportunities to grow our economy. We intend to explore the positive economic, social and environmental benefits a circular economy could have in Queensland. As the Premier said, we will continue to consult with industry and the community as we finalise the design of our waste strategy and our waste levy to ensure that families do not face increased costs.

There is a lot to be optimistic about in Queensland's resource recovery, recycling and waste arena. We have an opportunity to reposition Queensland on a path that improves our performance across the waste sectors and we are determined to make the most of it.