




Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**

**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2018

**MOTION: NEW CHUM, WASTE FACILITY**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (6.46 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. In moving her motion about waste facilities in Ipswich tonight, the Leader of the Opposition articulated why Queensland needs a comprehensive waste strategy that is underpinned by a waste levy. This debate demonstrates that those opposite have only now come to terms with the consequences of their decision to repeal the waste levy in 2012. They have come in here with fake moral outrage and demanded the state government take unprecedented action to fix a mess that the LNP created.

To address the comments of the member for Glass House, who talked about the level of waste over a number of years, I say that if he had read the report he would know that the spike in interstate waste coincided with the New South Wales levy being increased, making it even cheaper to dump in Queensland because the LNP had repealed the levy. We are seeing a lack of vision from those opposite rather than a comprehensive strategy to address the broader challenges facing our state's waste industry.

I am fully aware of the concerns Ipswich locals are expressing about waste. Last week, during *Governing from the Regions* in Ipswich, my director-general and I met with members of the local group Ipswich Residents Against Toxic Environments. We had a frank discussion and I heard for myself their concerns about the management of waste in Ipswich and the amount of waste being trucked into their city from interstate as a result of the LNP's reckless repeal of the waste levy.

I also met with the mayor of Ipswich City Council, who described yesterday's announcement of a waste levy as 'a great start'. On radio yesterday, the mayor also said, 'It will have an immediate effect on how much waste is brought into Queensland and particularly Ipswich.' The mayor of Ipswich understands the importance of what we are doing and so does the industry. I have been engaging with the waste industry that is operating in the Ipswich region and right across the state. I have been engaging and meeting with stakeholders, because it is the hallmark of the Palaszczuk government to consult and collaborate to deliver fair and balanced outcomes.

I have said this many times this week and I will say it again: when the LNP recklessly repealed the waste levy without any vision for waste management in Queensland, it not only opened the floodgates for rubbish to be dumped in Ipswich and across the state but also robbed our state of the opportunity to build recycling infrastructure and industry. The member for Broadwater said that Ipswich superdumps are a result of Labor ignoring the city, but the truth is that they are the product of the LNP's disastrous waste policy decisions, which were made while the member for Broadwater was a member of Campbell Newman's cabinet.

The waste industry employs 50,000 people across Australia and contributes about \$15 billion to our national economy. In addition, every 10,000 tonnes of waste in landfill supports less than three jobs, but if the same amount of waste were recycled it would support more than nine jobs. An incentive to recycle not only is good environmental policy but also makes economic sense. In his report to government Justice Peter Lyons noted the following—

Several industry participants ... indicated that the removal of the levy in 2012 had resulted in a loss of jobs at recycling plants.

That is the advice of the independent review. The LNP is responsible for job losses in Queensland. Unlike those opposite, the Palaszczuk government understands that, as part of a comprehensive waste strategy, a levy can be a lever to stimulate the growth of new industries and create new jobs. We are looking at the big picture. Industries and councils recognise the opportunities that will come with the establishment of a waste strategy and a levy. Justice Peter Lyons noted in his report that no submission that has been received to date entirely opposed the imposition of a levy.

Let me be clear: Queensland households will not be directly impacted by a new waste levy. Among those who will feel the effect of it are the companies trucking waste into Ipswich dumps. Ipswich City Council is assessing the application from BMI for a waste facility at New Chum. Our government is setting Queensland on a strategic path for waste management across the state. I support the amendment.