




Speech By
Hon. Leeanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Waste and Resource Recovery

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerster—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.02 am): We stand at a crossroads when it comes to the waste and resource recovery industry in Australia. The decision by China to tighten controls on recycling has presented challenges for all levels of government around the country, including Queensland. There are some who are attempting to present this as a South-East Queensland issue, but I can assure members that it is having an impact right across our state.

Inside these challenges are enormous opportunities to build a thriving resource recovery industry, create jobs and leave a positive environmental legacy for generations of Queenslanders to come. That is why the Palaszczuk government is moving quickly to develop a comprehensive waste strategy to pursue initiatives on recycling and waste recovery and explore more innovative ways to use waste. We are currently designing a comprehensive strategy, underpinned by a waste levy, to encourage investment and innovation in the industry. The Chief Executive Officer of the Local Government Association of Queensland, Greg Hallam, has welcomed the state government's commitment to address this issue. Mr Hallam said—

Local councils across Queensland are hurting, and we will work quickly and collaboratively with the Government to ensure the best possible strategies are put in place.

Over the past month, I have visited waste recovery centres around the state—including Gladstone, Townsville and Cairns—and the message I have heard from local councils and industry is that we must act now, and that is precisely what we are doing. Last week, I attended two key events to discuss the current situation facing Queensland when it comes to our waste and resource recovery industry. On Thursday, I attended the waste and recycling industry Queensland forum in Bundaberg that brought together industry, state government, local government and international experts to explore ways to change the way we think about waste and opportunities to develop the industry. On Friday, I attended the Meeting of Environment Ministers in Melbourne.

I have been advocating for the federal government to step up and show leadership on a national solution around the waste and recycling industry. While the federal government did not come to the meeting with a financial plan, it was encouraging to see them commit to updating the national waste strategy to include circular economy principles by the end of the year. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering a comprehensive waste strategy for Queensland, and we will deliver on our commitment.