




Speech By
Hon. Leanne Enoch

MEMBER FOR ALGESTER

Record of Proceedings, 12 June 2018

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Waste Levy

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.00 am): In March this year the Palaszczuk government committed to develop a new waste and recycling strategy that will be underpinned by a waste levy which will not see Queenslanders pay more to put their wheelie bins out each week. We have been working with industry and key stakeholders. Earlier this month we released a directions paper that sets out the key principles that underpin the new strategy and the core features of a levy that will apply to waste sent to landfill. The directions paper shows that we are keeping our promise to Queenslanders. We will ensure that there will be no direct cost on households by providing advanced payments to local councils.

Today's budget will outline details of how the Palaszczuk government will deliver a levy framework that supports local councils, industry and community. We are making sure that our waste strategy and levy creates industry and job growth and improves recycling. For too long recycling in Queensland has languished behind other jurisdictions. The LNP's repeal of our waste levy in 2012 left us the only mainland state without a waste levy, turning us into a cheap place to dump interstate waste and robbing us of the opportunity to invest in the waste and recycling industry.

Given China's recent restrictions on imported recycling material, we need to act now. This is what the Palaszczuk government is doing. We are working to improve the management of waste and recycling for future generations.

Recently, the LGAQ released a report into waste to energy initiatives, showing their long-term thinking about Queensland's waste management. The report shows that policy and investment are critical to the development of innovative waste technologies. The Palaszczuk government's waste strategy will provide that strategic direction. The LNP are now the only ones actively working against investment in Queensland's waste and recycling industry. Even proponents of waste to energy recognise that the levy is required in order to invest in new technology. Our state needs to move towards a circular economy that uses a variety of mechanisms to improve recycling and reuse and reduce our dependence on landfill.

A waste levy will give industry the confidence to invest in alternative and innovative recycling technologies to grow the sector and create jobs. It will also provide Queenslanders with an expanding range of recycling and recovery options and, importantly, reduce landfill. By working with local government, we will honour our commitment that Queenslanders will not pay any more to put out their wheelie bins.