



Speech By  
**Hon. Leanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 August 2018

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL**

**Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, Report**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (6.13 pm): The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting our environment and the Great Barrier Reef, maintaining our international reputation for science and research and investing in the arts. Ensuring we leave Queensland in a better position for our children and grandchildren is at the heart of our agenda. Our record investment in the Great Barrier Reef, climate change action and tackling plastic pollution are some of the key environmental priorities described in this year's budget.

The Great Barrier Reef contributes more than \$6 billion to the Australian economy and supports more than 60,000 jobs. Protecting the reef is one of our government's Advancing Queensland priorities and we have committed a record \$330 million over five years to preserve this natural icon. This funding will allow us to undertake restoration and conservation activities to preserve the reef for future generations. We all know that climate change remains the biggest threat to the reef. Our government recognises that we need to address this as a priority. That is why we are investing \$5.6 million to help Queensland transition to a low-carbon, clean-growth economy.

The Palaszczuk government is taking action, but sadly the federal government is not. Earlier this week the Prime Minister walked away from a commitment to serious emissions reductions—the biggest lever to tackle climate change. We need national action to tackle climate change, and I hate to think what this decision will mean for our future generations. I hope those opposite, including the shadow minister for environment, will be calling on their federal colleagues to step up and take action. The future of our reef and the tens of thousands of jobs that rely on it are at stake.

The Palaszczuk government recognises that the environment is our future. In Queensland it is fundamental to our way of life and needs to be cared for and protected for our future generations. That is why we are tackling pollution and we are moving to find more solutions to how we manage waste in our state. We are implementing a comprehensive waste management strategy that will help drive a new wave of economic growth for Queensland and give industry the confidence to invest in alternative and innovative recycling technologies to grow the sector and create jobs.

During the estimates hearing I received just four questions from those opposite regarding waste and the report from Justice Lyons. It was interesting to see not one mention of the waste strategy from those opposite in the statement of reservation. Perhaps this means they have no reservations.

We want to get Queensland's waste management sector back on track and increase investment in resource recovery industries after the LNP caused us to fall behind the rest of Australia when they repealed the waste levy. What the LNP needs to answer now is: would they repeal the waste levy like they did in 2012 and open the floodgates to interstate waste being dumped here again and rob Queensland industry of investment opportunities again?

The statement of reservation also proves that those opposite have no plans for Queensland in the environment, science and arts space. In the statement for the environment, science and arts portfolio, the LNP listed five goals for Queensland. None of those five goals mentioned anything about the environment or the arts or science. All we are hearing is a whole lot of whinging and nothing about their plans for Queensland.

Unlike the LNP, the Palaszczuk government has a plan to protect our precious environment and the Great Barrier Reef, support science in Queensland and further invest in the arts. We are building a future state that is more resilient, more sustainable and more prosperous so we can create better outcomes for Queenslanders.

I take this opportunity to thank the committee, the chair of the committee, the member for Stretton, the public servants from my department as well as the parliamentary staff who all contributed to the estimates hearing.