



Speech By  
**Samuel O'Connor**

**MEMBER FOR BONNEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 21 March 2018

**MOTION: NEW CHUM, WASTE FACILITY**

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.22 pm): It is with great pleasure that I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. Even without the proposed new superdump, Ipswich accounts for one-quarter of the waste disposed of in landfills in Queensland. There are many things that Ipswich should be renowned for. It has pristine heritage buildings, a major RAAF base at Amberley, my old school of Ipswich Grammar School—the first secondary school in this state—the Workshops Rail Museum and the beautiful Queen's Park. Being a major dumping ground is not one of them. If this new facility is to go ahead, it will take over 1.1 million tonnes of waste per year and plonk it within minutes of suburbia.

This issue has personal significance for me, because my parents live close to the existing Swanbank landfill. In fact, they live so close to that superdump that if the wind is blowing from the dump's direction often they are forced indoors. As one can imagine, that is particularly unbearable in the summer months. I am told that many residents will not even talk about the issue, because they are scared that the values of their homes will decrease as a result.

If the elected Labor members for Ipswich do not want to stand up for their constituents, although I am a proud Gold Coaster now I would feel obligated to do it for them because I am from Ipswich. Of course, I am excluding from that list the member for Bundamba. Time and time again, the member has valiantly stood up to the Premier on this issue. Just last week at the Ipswich Town Hall meeting held at the Racehorse Hotel—a fine establishment that, a few years ago, I worked behind the bar of—the member for Bundamba declared—

The point is that the message Premier, loud and clear from our community, who have to put up with asthma attacks every day, who have to put up with enormous respiratory problems, they cannot open their houses because of the stink and the smell—we're over it, we've had enough and that's the message tonight.

Labor has form when it comes to calling in developments. They did it in West End and Upper Kedron. Why is Ipswich any different? If there is nowhere to dump interstate rubbish, how can it be brought over the border in these quantities?

You do not need a new tax to solve this problem. On the Gold Coast, my local government has shown that local governments can take action to make sure that their tips are used primarily by residents. They have increased the facility fees at the Stapylton landfill for waste entering from outside of the Gold Coast. In Brisbane, the major tip at Rochedale does not accept interstate landfill. That is really how you stop the trucks. These are great examples of why it is unnecessary to burden the entire state—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member, I am sorry. The cross-chamber interjections are far too loud. Members, if you want to make a contribution to the debate, put yourself on the speaking list and rise to your feet.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** These are great examples of why it is unnecessary to burden the entire state with a new waste tax. Councils can take action to make sure that their tips do not become someone else's dumping ground.

It makes you think: maybe there is another reason for this new tax. It would not take Sherlock Holmes to solve that mystery. Labor just loves to tax. A scattergun, broad-ranging approach to tax such as this is not the path to prosperity. A tax does not create the environment for any new jobs. Based on the data in the investigation into interstate waste, a tax may not even solve the problem that the government is trying to address. In 2014-15, the amount of interstate waste decreased compared to the previous year and that was without a tax.

I will leave the House with a line from my favourite band, the Beatles, who provide a timely suggestion for Queenslanders living under a Labor government: 'Now my advice for those who die, declare the pennies on your eyes.'