




Speech By  
**Hon. Cameron Dick**

**MEMBER FOR WOODRIDGE**

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Record of Proceedings, 13 February 2019

**WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (WASTE LEVY) AND OTHER  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.36 pm): I am very pleased to rise in the House this evening to provide my strong support to the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Most debates in this House are political. Some are ideological but by far the most meaningful involve differences in policy. Of the litany of the LNP's policy failures in government, the abolition of the waste levy is surely one of the most egregious and destructive and certainly the one whose consequences are the most enduring. That is the legacy of Campbell Newman. With that one decision he managed to turn South-East Queensland into the garbage dump capital of the eastern seaboard. All of those opposite are complicit in that decision—in particular, the member for Broadwater, who was the minister for local government and was such a strong and ardent supporter of Campbell Newman during his destructive reign as the Premier of Queensland.

Their complicit action in that decision is reinforced by the position they have taken on this bill. This debate demonstrates that not only have the LNP learned nothing; they also have no shame. They are like the boy who gets caught chopping down a tree whose only regret is that he did not destroy the entire orchard. The LNP's garbage policy turned Ipswich into a garbage dump, and those opposite have the temerity to come back into this House and shamelessly attempt to re prosecute their case.

It has been said that those who fail to learn history are doomed to repeat it, first as tragedy then as farce. The LNP has a happy knack of reversing that process. Its abolition of the waste levy began as farce and has turned into tragedy for Queenslanders, who have been left quite literally with the mess.

As soon as the levy was removed the trucks started rolling, hauling rubbish all the way from Sydney to dump in Queensland. And they have kept coming—1.3 million tonnes last year, as the minister has reported to the House. That is a 37 per cent increase on the previous year. There are mountains of it, building on the mountains already there as a result of the Newman government's arrogant misjudgement.

The only comfort that can be taken from the destructive term of the Newman government was that it was mercifully brief. That record majority secured in 2012 was lost in 2015—blown away by the hubris of a government that thought it could do what it wanted to whomever it wanted whenever it wanted, regardless of the consequences. We saw it again this week with QCAT's judgement of their treatment of their former party member and former assistant minister Dr Chris Davis.

**Mr Power:** Shame!

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from the member for Logan. Not only was it a shame; it was a disgrace. We are seeing it again in this debate in terms of trying to defend a policy whose failure is so manifestly apparent it beggars belief. I cannot wait to see what they throw up tomorrow. Maybe Strong Choices will make a return! Fortunately the government of Queensland has changed and Queensland has a Premier, a Minister for Environment and a Labor government that puts the interests of the people of this state first.

The proposal to introduce a waste levy, which will commence should this legislation pass, has already sent a strong message to industry and will provide funding to support the development of new industries that will help us deal with vast stockpiles of waste that is the dividend of the LNP's policy vandalism. The government has committed \$100 million, as the minister and other members in this House have commented on, to the resource recovery industry development fund to provide support and incentives that encourage business capable of converting waste into a more useful product and create jobs for Queenslanders along the way.

These initiatives not only help with the massive rubbish piles plaguing Queensland by turning garbage from a liability into an asset; they will create new opportunities for new industries that will generate new jobs—new, sustainable, long-term jobs for the people of our state. That is a foreign concept to those members opposite because it is what good policy looks like. It takes a problem, finds a solution, adds value to it, creates industry and generates jobs.

Because it is good policy, naturally the LNP wants to unwind it. In all other things it is a confused and divided rabble except in this one area, this one thing that binds it together—the opposition to good, effective public policy. This is a story that can be told in numbers. As the minister said this morning, the jobs dividend for recycling is triple what it is for landfill. What do we hear from the LNP? Howling it down, shouting into the wind, fighting for another chance to reincarnate another appalling policy. Those three dark years of the Newman government that the Queensland people have consigned to history—to the political garbage dump—will not die. It is the poison that just keeps giving from the LNP.

Queenslanders deserve better than the constant reheating of twice rejected policies that continue to infect the opposition's agenda. At a time when our state requires bold thinking—when the voters quite rightly look to politicians who have a little moral courage and govern in the interests of the people they have been elected to serve—the LNP jalopy continues down the road with a flat tyre, the fuel tank on policy empty and not delivering what the people of this state deserve. The rubbish it has inflicted—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I think we have heard enough from the member for Broadwater, but he keeps going. There is one person in Queensland of course who will take comfort from the member for Broadwater's contribution this afternoon. If that was an audition for the leadership, the member for Nanango will be resting quite easily tonight. After listening to the member for Broadwater I did not hear leadership on public policy in this state in no way, shape or form—a reheated bunch of clichés and platitudes straight from the morally bankrupt LNP policy playbook, appealing to the constituency, appealing to his base but not appealing to the people of Queensland.

Fortunately for the people of this state, they have a Premier and a government that have their back. That comment is nowhere more evident than in the reintroduction of the waste levy and our plan to turn back the trucks. This debate is a reminder in stark terms of the policy gap that exists between the government and the opposition—a gap between the vision of a leader who believes in the people of her state and in doing the right thing for the people of Queensland and, as I have said, a morally bankrupt opposition when it comes to good public policy in this state.

In conclusion, I acknowledge and congratulate the Minister for Environment on her work in not only shaping the policy framework around this legislation but bringing this bill to the House. The Minister for Environment, Minister Enoch, has shouldered a very significant workload since she has become the Minister for Environment in this state and will leave a very proud legacy because of the contribution she has made and the achievements she has been able to deliver.

We need to move away from the vandalism of the past. The economic, social and environmental vandalism that came from the removal of the waste levy was one of the worst public policy decisions in Queensland for many years, aided and abetted, as I said earlier, by those members opposite such as the member for Glass House, my shadow spokesperson, when he was the minister for environment. Could members imagine a minister for environment taking pleasure in removing the waste levy and the consequences that it caused for our state? When the member for Broadwater was the minister for local government he was taking pleasure in making those decisions that made life harder for people in our community, as members in this House said earlier.

This legislation needs to be supported. It is good public policy. It is the right thing to do for Queensland. It is our plan to stop the trucks, to create a new resource recycling and re-use industry in Queensland. It is part of the platform for our state and part of our plan—

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I do not know what the member for Southern Downs said, but whatever it was it is not worth listening to. This is a proposal that will generate more new sustainable jobs for Queenslanders.