




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR NUDGE

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

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.40 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill represents a significant opportunity to modernise waste management in Queensland through the reintroduction of a waste disposal levy. Queensland has an enviable reputation for many things; our pristine beaches, natural environment, city building, growth and general way of life being amongst them. Being the interstate waste dumping capital is not. When the former LNP Newman government repealed the waste levy in 2012 it made Queensland a cheap place to dump interstate waste and robbed us of the opportunity to invest in the waste and recycling industry. Since 2012 over 3.5 million tonnes of waste has been trucked across the border into Queensland, including 1.2 million tonnes in 2017-18 alone.

We are currently the only mainland state without a waste levy and it has sent a market signal that has seen the volume of interstate waste, largely construction demolition waste and contaminated soil, transported into Queensland increase by more than 50 per cent in each of the past two years. The final report from the Hon. Peter Lyons QC, commissioned by our government to investigate transport of waste into Queensland, conclusively found that the significant incentive identified for participants in the waste industry to transport their waste from other states into Queensland is financial. Further, that the introduction of a levy would avoid such an incentive and bring Queensland into line with New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and many overseas jurisdictions. We cannot afford not to do something.

Waste data for the 2017-18 financial year shows that growth in Queensland's waste per capita has outstripped population growth by 11 per cent over the last eight years. The state's recovery rate is virtually unchanged over the same period and is almost 30 per cent below the top performing jurisdiction, South Australia, at 77 per cent. To reach the national average recovery rate, Queensland would need to recover an additional 1.5 million tonnes of waste, a 38 per cent increase on the volume currently recovered. At 48 per cent, Queensland's waste recovery rate is the second lowest of the eight states and territories. These figures are sobering and they paint a picture of the trajectory we will continue to follow as a state if a cogent and consistent policy position is not articulated for waste management in this state.

This bill represents an opportunity to set a course that reduces waste into landfill and allows for investment in new and expanded resource recovery infrastructure and the associated jobs such investment creates. A report prepared by the Queensland Treasury Corporation identified that 10,000 tonnes of waste going into landfill supports three jobs. Recycling that same waste is estimated to generate nine jobs. Based on Queensland's current disposal to landfill and the Deloitte Access Economics employment ratios, there is potential for the creation of 3,000 additional direct jobs from improved waste management practices in this state. This is in addition to the benefits of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, avoiding the unproductive use of land and minimising potential environmental issues.

My electorate of Nudgee is home to one of four resource recovery centres—or tips or dumps, to use the common vernacular—in the BCC boundaries at Nudgee beach. The incredible juxtaposition is that only two minutes down the road you will find the precious Nudgee Beach Reserve, Nudgee Waterholes Reserve, Nudgee Bora Ring, Moreton Bay Marine Park and Boondall Wetlands. I want my children and their children, and all children living in my electorate, to actually have a place to visit. That takes leadership; not more dumps, but more innovative solutions, and this government is taking responsibility and having vision.

Importantly, the Queensland government has made a commitment that there will be no direct impact on households associated with the introduction of this levy. I say to the people of my electorate, you will not have to pay more to put your wheelie bin out. Our government committed \$32 million in this year's state budget to ensure advance payments can be made to councils. Councils will receive a 105 per cent advance payment for the waste. This means they will be paid more than what it actually costs to send their waste to landfill so there is no reason the BCC should increase your rates due to the waste levy. I am sure I am not the only member in this House who has experienced the disingenuous practice of some local councillors to constantly shift blame for council issues onto the state government. This commitment is an important one. There is no reason for council to increase your rates due to the waste levy.

Proceeds from the levy will be reinvested into programs to boost the recycling and resource recovery sector in Queensland. For example, the Queensland government has announced that \$100 million has been allocated to a Resource Recovery Industry Development Program designed to invest in Queensland's resource recovery infrastructure. Stream 1 of the program closed on 23 November 2018 and received 76 applications. I am proud to say that my electorate is represented in this mix of applications. Last week I met with an applicant from a local business, Rosenlund Contractors, who is passionate about seeing Queensland follow the Netherlands example which has a recovery rate of 98 per cent with a significant proportion of that through energy recovery. This is absolutely something to aspire to.

This bill represents a significant opportunity to modernise waste management in Queensland. I am proud to be a member of a government that is showing leadership in this space. I commend the bill to the House.