



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 21 August 2019

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Waste, Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (9.59 am): Illegal dumping is an important environmental issue across Queensland. Our state has such beautiful public spaces, national parks and waterways that any illegal dumping of waste into those areas is a serious problem for local communities. As such, the Palaszczuk government has initiated the local government Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program to support councils to hire compliance staff who can combat this issue. The objective of the program is to act on and prevent illegal dumping by funding and training additional compliance staff within local governments.

As always, our government recognises that improving waste management is also a job-creating opportunity. We are investing \$2 million over two years in grants to local governments, including an initial six-month pilot program, which is allowing four councils to employ two full-time compliance officers in each area who are solely dedicated to the investigation and enforcement of illegal dumping. Councils chosen for the pilot program are the City of Gold Coast council, Fraser Coast Regional Council, Bundaberg Regional Council and Townsville City Council. These councils were selected because of high numbers of illegal dumping reports, dumping in built-up areas close to sensitive environmental areas and a demonstrated commitment to achieving compliance outcomes.

I am pleased to report to the House that the City of Gold Coast commenced two compliance officers on 5 August this year. The remaining local governments—Fraser Coast, Bundaberg and Townsville—are expected to have compliance resources commencing in the coming weeks. Ongoing training and support will be provided by the department to all four local governments as part of the partnership program. Building on the pilot program, the department released the local government Illegal Dumping Partnerships Program on 31 July this year, inviting other local governments to apply to join the program. A maximum of \$200,000 funding per local government is available for employing additional field officers and for the purchase of surveillance and other equipment to assist in investigating illegal dumping incidents. This is an exciting opportunity for councils to partner with the state government and create local frontline jobs performing an important environmental compliance role.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to fighting the war on waste, which is something we know Queenslanders are passionate about. We are investing in a range of measures like this that are creating new jobs, supporting the industry and helping the environment.