




Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**

**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

---

Record of Proceedings, 14 February 2019

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

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (12.25 pm): I rise to support this important legislation and congratulate the Minister for Environment on introducing this legislation. Our government has acted swiftly in response to the damning findings in the Lyons report. The findings in the report were clear: the LNP's removal of the waste levy did ensure that Queensland was a dumping ground for the rest of the country. Currently Queensland is the only mainland state in Australia that does not have a waste levy and those opposite have been peddling misinformation about the waste levy in an attempt to cover up the fact that its policy caused a 60 per cent increase in interstate dumping.

The levy is a key component of our comprehensive waste strategy for Queensland to increase recycling and create new jobs and economic growth. We have fallen behind the other states since the waste levy was abolished. The repeal robbed us of the opportunity to invest in the waste and recycling industry. According to the most recent Australian national waste report, Queensland has the lowest waste recovery rate of the states. Not only do we dump more waste than we recycle; the amount of waste that we generate in Queensland is increasing faster than our population growth. When the levy was repealed, Queensland became fair game for profit driven interstate waste operators and transporters.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I take that interjection. We absolutely became the dumping ground for interstate waste.

**Mr Power:** That's what the LNP wants.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I again take that interjection: it clearly was what the LNP wanted. The \$100 million Resource Recovery Industry Development Program is designed for local governments, established businesses and not for profits looking to employ proven technologies for resource recovery to improve existing operations or bring significant new facilities to Queensland. It was also recently announced that \$2 million over two years will be provided to deliver measures that will support our construction industry to reduce waste generation in the first instance and increase resource recovery. We are absolutely committed to working with industry and working with the construction sector to ensure that they can play their part in waste minimisation recovery and recycling.

The point is that better waste management translates into new jobs. In an industry that already employs over 6,000 Queenslanders, for every 10,000 tonnes of waste, recycling directly employs 9.2 full-time equivalents whereas landfill supports 2.8. Not only will this policy generate jobs; it will attract industry investment and innovation through recycling and recovery. We are working very closely with our stakeholders and with small businesses. CCIQ and the Australian Industry Group are a part of our stakeholder advisory group which is playing an important role by providing advice and guidance to help shape the development of our strategy and identify ways to minimise the impacts of the waste levy on small businesses.

I am very proud of our government's work with small businesses to deliver the ecoBiz program in partnership with CCIQ. This fantastic program helps businesses reduce the amount of waste, develop waste avoidance and resource efficiency practices and save money at the same time as reducing their environmental footprint. EcoBiz has partnered with homegrown Queensland business Perfect Potion and produced fantastic results. It has reduced its energy usage by over 50 per cent, its water usage by 75 per cent and its waste landfill by a whopping 65 per cent. This fantastic program is getting results for small businesses and I am really pleased that we are doing this in partnership with CCIQ to help our small businesses not only save money but also reduce their environmental footprint. This program is about planning for Queensland's future. I am proud that we committed an extra \$3.9 million in our last budget to continue and expand the ecoBiz program over the next few years.

The \$2 billion Affordable Energy Plan is also supporting our small businesses to make electricity more affordable for residential and business customers. Under our plan, the government is delivering the \$20 million Business Energy Savers Program, which provides free energy audits for agricultural and large electricity-using business customers. This is a win-win. Our small businesses are saving money at the same time as reducing their environmental footprint, which means that the next generations will not have to confront this problem in its entirety, because we are doing our bit now to plan for the future.

The Queensland government is absolutely committed to reducing the cost of doing business in Queensland and to putting in place the environment for small businesses to start, grow and employ. I wholeheartedly commend the bill to the House.