



Speech By  
**Stephen Bennett**


**MEMBER FOR BURNETT**

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **Cleaner Greener Schools**

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (7.06 pm): It has been a great pleasure in recent weeks to launch another initiative in the Burnett electorate. We are calling it the Cleaner Greener Schools project. I could not be more delighted to share with the House about a great project and opportunity.

We are extremely lucky to live in such a pristine environment in our part of the world, and we are also lucky that we have the knowledge and resources available to us to help maintain and improve our great environment and region into the future. I have been lucky to meet some incredible and remarkably intelligent young people within my electorate who are always coming up with new and innovative ways to reduce, re-use and recycle.

The main concept encourages schools to participate in the promotion of waste minimisation and recycling within the school, the home and the broader community, and the promotion of the long-term sustainability of the schools' waste minimisation and recycling initiatives.

On planning this project my office and I approached a number of local businesses and organisations to see if they would be interested in partnering with my office—offering more knowledge, ideas, advice, products and support. We were over the moon with the response. For their support I thank the Burnett Mary Regional Group, Sheila and team; Impact Make Your Mark; ABC Recycling, Anne-Marie and Paul; and Multikraft, Conor O'Brien.

The six schools participating this year are Moore Park State School, St Luke's Anglican School, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Bargara State School, Goora Gan Steiner School in Agnes Water and Gooburrum State School. As part of the initiative schools are offered a tour of Impact's recycling facility and ABC Recycling's new Containers for Change facility. ABC Recycling also offered to deliver a collection bin to all participating schools.

On completion of the competition, schools are encouraged to submit a short summary covering how waste reduction and recycling promotion were completed by their school and what improvements were made. This can be submitted in formats such as a short video, a pdf, a PowerPoint or posters. We will go through a judging process with involved stakeholders.

We are already seeing many schools take up the charge in activities like Facebook promotions of recycling, the introduction of worm farms for food waste at school, nude food programs, the promotion of recycling in school magazines, the use of school community noticeboards to promote recycling, and participation in our Reef Guardians program around the Great Barrier Reef.

It has been such a pleasure to launch this program again in our region. The uptake from the local businesses and organisations, as well as the schools, has been encouraging and wonderful. Let us use the great knowledge and resources that are available to us to help educate our younger generations. Sometimes they educate us, as we all know. We will get a lot of knowledge and innovation in return. I encourage schools to participate in our Cleaner Greener Schools program. I encourage other members of the House who may want to consider engaging with their schools to make sure our environment is part of the curriculum and part of our school students' priorities as we go forward.