




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2020

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Ipswich, Waste Facility

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.27 pm): The issue of waste continues to be discussed not only across the Bundamba community but right across Ipswich, Queensland and, indeed, the nation. Locally, there is a proposal by Remondis to build a waste-to-energy facility at its site in Swanbank where it currently operates a landfill facility that generates power using methane capture technology.

Much has changed since Ipswich City Council originally approved waste activities at the site more than 20 years ago. There has, and continues to be, significant population and urban growth through the areas around Swanbank and New Chum. Our community is now a fast-growing urban area and, due to local government development approvals, people in the suburbs of Redbank Plains, Collingwood Park and Ripley are now living in closer proximity than ever before to waste industry activities.

There are significant community concerns about the waste to energy proposal, concerns which I take very seriously. Already there are questions around the proposal's environmental impacts and potential health impacts; and community feedback raised with me to date has been exclusively negative. In June, the Coordinator-General, which is independent of government, declared the proposal a 'coordinated project'. I want to make it very clear that this declaration does not mean the proposal has been approved, nor does not mean it has any endorsement whatsoever from the state government. In fact, under the Palaszczuk government, six coordinated projects have been approved, six have been rejected and 12 are under consideration. It does mean, however, that the project is now subject to the most rigorous assessment available under Queensland law and must go through full public consultation and assessment of the project's environmental, economic and social impacts. Regardless of the outcome of the Coordinator-General process, the project will still need to be approved by Ipswich City Council and meet relevant federal government requirements.

I listened carefully to community feedback and thank everyone who took the time to discuss the project with me. Having taken the time to consult and consider, I believe that there are better options to be explored such as establishing a state-of-the-art recycling facility which would deliver more jobs locally and is a higher order use under the Queensland waste strategy, or relocating the project to a more suitable location away from what is a fast-growing, highly populated urban area. This is a view shared by the members for Ipswich, Ipswich West and Jordan, and we have written to the Coordinator-General to communicate this. I table a copy of that letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 3 September 2020, from the member for Ipswich, Ms Jennifer Howard MP, the member for Ipswich West, Mr Jim Madden MP, the member for Bundamba, Mr Lance McCallum MP, and the member for Jordan, Ms Charis Mullen MP, to the Coordinator General, Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation, Ms Toni Power, regarding the proposed Remondis Energy to Waste Facility [1625](#).

I thank everyone from our community who has taken the time to contact the Coordinator-General. I encourage others who are interested to do the same and to make their views known. I would like to see our community, and Queensland more broadly, become a zero-waste society where waste is avoided, re-used and recycled to the greatest possible extent.