



Speech By  
**Hon. Leeanne Enoch**


**MEMBER FOR ALGESTER**

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Record of Proceedings, 6 February 2020

**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT**

**Illegal Dumping**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.07 am): Queenslanders are fighting the war on waste on all fronts. With Clean Up Australia Day right around the corner, this is an important time of year to think about litter and illegal dumping. I am pleased to inform the House of the Palaszczuk government's latest investment to combat illegal dumping in our communities and at the same time support local jobs. Our work has taken another important step, with \$5 million in funding going to councils to employ 31 new field officers across the state to increase surveillance and other interventions that will reduce dumping in known hotspot areas. Acknowledging the challenges councils have in managing illegal dumping, this funding is being provided under the Local Government Illegal Dumping Partnership and the Local Government Illegal Dumping Hotspot program.

In July the government kicked off a pilot partnership program, providing \$400,000 to Gold Coast, Bundaberg, Fraser Coast and Townsville councils to employ an extra eight people on the ground to investigate and respond to illegal dumping in their regions. The pilot was a tremendous success and demonstrated that, with the right resources, tools and training, councils can move beyond cleaning up illegally dumped waste to identifying and pursuing offenders. Building on that success, I recently announced the partnership program is now providing \$3.6 million for 31 extra frontline jobs in 29 councils to really tackle this problem in our regions. The program will help councils through targeted training and support programs and by boosting intelligence and data reporting on illegal dumping activities. In addition, the hotspot program is also providing \$1.3 million to 32 councils for targeted action to support programs at known illegal dumping locations.

The government is sending a strong message to illegal dumpers that there will be consequences. Our environment is too beautiful to allow it to be polluted by people who choose to do the wrong thing. Once again, the Palaszczuk government is showing how managing waste differently and focusing our efforts in the right places can also create jobs and protect the environment. Hand in hand with councils we are sending a message to all Queenslanders: let us fight the war on waste together.