




Speech By
Ros Bates

MEMBER FOR MUDGEERABA

Record of Proceedings, 10 September 2020

ADJOURNMENT

Ipswich, Waste Facility

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (6.32 pm): I rise to raise a concerning matter brought to my attention by a former member of this House and one that is of utmost importance for the health of local residents of Ipswich and what locals now sadly refer to as 'Tipswich'. Thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government, Ipswich is rapidly becoming the toxic waste dump capital of Australia and local residents are sick of it. I see that the lazy local Labor members out in Ipswich have finally found their voice to oppose the development of a waste-to-energy project at Swanbank, currently under consideration by the Coordinator-General as a coordinated project under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

In another classic case of 'don't look at what we say, look at what we do', the lazy local Labor members have finally found their voice after a number of years of ushering the project through the approvals process and just two months before the state election, but their belated hollow opposition is all talk and no action. The waste-to-energy facility to be located at Swanbank was referred to the Coordinator-General as a coordinated project under the Palaszczuk Labor government. If Labor really opposed this project then the government would rescind this referral.

Labor's lazy local members out in Ipswich need to front up and tell the truth. If locals vote for Labor at the next election they will get the project. If the government were serious about their objections, the Minister for State Development could direct the Coordinator-General, as per section 10(2) of the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971. The only local Labor person who stood up for these issues is the former member for Bundamba, Jo-Ann Miller.

In another local environmental disaster, late last year we saw the Department of Environment having to order an independent probe after polluted water was found more than two kilometres from the dumping site. When asked about the levels of PFAS contamination in Six Mile Creek, the department told the *Brisbane Times* that surface water in the area is not known to be used for drinking. It did not, however, provide comment on the water being used to irrigate a nearby community garden at Riverview, where dozens of families have grown vegetables for years. The people of Riverview told the *Brisbane Times* that no-one from the department warned them about the contamination of the creek water.

The Minister for Environment cannot sit idly by as toxic waste is dumped in Ipswich, polluting nearby waterways and, as we have seen recently, erupting into flames. Where are the local Labor state members amongst all of this? How can the Minister for Environment stand by when fire crews are called to this dumping site 11 times in three years? Even as a southern Gold Coaster, this concerns me and many others I have spoken to, and the minister needs to take action. Ipswich locals and the Ipswich council are fed up with important decisions made over their heads without consultation. The Minister for Environment needs to apologise for the series of events that have transpired under her department. The only way to get rid of the Ipswich lazy Labor members is to vote for the LNP on 31 October.