




Speech By
Cynthia Lui

MEMBER FOR COOK

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

Torres Strait, Metal Waste

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.28 pm): In December last year I took a trip home to Yam Island in the Torres Strait to spend some time with family. While I was there I was appalled at the amount of metal waste that was accumulating in my island community. I want to highlight that this has been an ongoing legacy issue for all the islands in the Torres Strait where we have metal waste building up in communities.

When it comes to protecting the environment, the Palaszczuk government works well to protect our great lifestyle. Being from the Torres Strait, I certainly know what a unique part of the electorate and of Queensland it is and it deserves protection. Recently we announced \$1.75 million for the removal of scrap metal waste on six island communities in the Torres Strait. That is in addition to the \$5 million we have already invested in helping the Torres Strait Island Regional Council with the mammoth task of removing metal waste.

Ms Richards interjected.

Ms LUI: Yes; I take the interjection from the member for Redlands. The challenge for the Torres Strait has always been around funding investment and how we pick up waste accumulating in the communities. I thank the Minister for the Environment and the Palaszczuk government for considering the Torres Strait as part of our great strategy to protect the environment. The investment will not only go towards the long-term effects of looking after our natural assets but also support economic outcomes for communities in the Torres Strait.

I give a shout-out to TSI Quarry and Edmund Tamwoy for the work that they are doing to remove metal waste from all the islands in the Torres Strait, bringing it to Badu and then going through the process of recycling it. On 19 October I was there with the Deputy Premier and we saw how excited the community is about doing something so important for the environment while also protecting the island communities. We need look to the future for all the communities and the people who enjoy island living every day.