




Speech By
Bryson Head

MEMBER FOR CALLIDE

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**WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (12.10 pm): The Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill aims to do a number of things. The LNP will be moving amendments to this bill to address some of the concerns a number of stakeholders raised. The circular economy is something that I and many constituents understand. Rural Australians are the best recyclers we have. Whether it is tearing down an old shed and repurposing the steel and corrugated iron for a chook pen and new cattle yards, or turning a used chemical shuttle into a storage rack in the shed, packaging waste is still waste. If there is leftover waste of any sort, it means you have wasted dollars as well.

When Labor governments know nothing better than to tax the life out of rural and regional Queensland, we in the bush cannot afford one skerrick of extra waste. If only the Palaszczuk government could deliver on their waste reductions as much as they like to talk about them, especially their financial waste: Wellcamp—waste, excessive budget blowouts—waste, Jackie Trad's secret legal fees—waste. For a bit of context in relation to this bill, the definition of 'waste' is as follows according to Merriam-Webster:

a : damaged, defective, or superfluous material produced by a manufacturing process: such as

(1) : material rejected during a textile manufacturing process and used usually for wiping away dirt and oil

...

(2) : SCRAP

(3) : an unwanted by-product of a manufacturing process, chemical laboratory, or nuclear reactor

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Member for Capalaba, you are not in your seat. Please refrain from interjecting, or sit down and interject if you so please.

Mr HEAD: It continues—

b : refuse from places of human or animal habitation: such as

(1) : GARBAGE, RUBBISH

(2) : EXCREMENT ...

(3) : SEWAGE

c : material derived by mechanical and chemical weathering of the land and moved down sloping surfaces or carried by streams to the sea

Funnily enough, this sounds a lot like many Labor policies and Labor governments in general. Maybe they should be added to this definition.

Recycling and the circular economy also form part of this bill. We know the Palaszczuk government talk a big game, but what do they actually do when it comes to recycling and the circular economy? As reported in the *Australian* in recent explosive media reports, their signature recycling program has secretly shipped up to 126 million—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members to my right, your interjections are not being taken. Member for Pine Rivers, I particularly ask you to refrain. Your interjections are not being taken.

Mr HEAD: As reported in the *Australian* in recent explosive media reports, as just tabled by the member for Surfers Paradise, their signature recycling program has secretly shipped up to 126 million drink popper containers to India that it refunded Queenslanders \$12.69 million to return to deposit refund centres. Despite the container deposit scheme starting in 2018, Queensland has no capacity to recycle the poppers made from liquid paperboard, forcing the government to sell the waste to a private Brisbane company, Genuine Recycling Group, which then ships this waste to India.

The only recycling the Premier has done recently happens to be during her recent reshuffle of the cabinet. The only difference is that many of these ministers should have been relegated to the bin or at least the backbench but, no, through the recycling plant they went. Or was it the circular economy they went through? No, sorry, my misunderstanding. It was just another circus act. I do feel for the few competent backbenchers the government has, seeing such appalling waste being recycled—

Ms LAUGA: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask if this member's contribution is relevant to the long title of the bill before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will take some advice from the Clerk. Member for Callide, you can resume your contribution but I ask you to bring your comments as you are making them back to the bill and relate them to the bill.

Mr HEAD: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. Regarding the circular economy, I think it is important to pick this issue apart a little more. There are a few omissions from the government both in Queensland and in Canberra about the inability of many renewable projects to be part of a circular economy. Waste from wind farms, solar farms and battery storage will, based off currently available technology, inevitably be destined for landfill. This will result in an environmental disaster and toxic local contamination to the communities being used as dumps. I believe the government must outline what their plan is for all this waste, as this is the most critical and pressing waste issue of the future. This bill will not address this issue. Projects that the government dub as 'for future generations' should not be leaving our children with contaminated wastelands and millions of tonnes of both toxic and non-toxic waste.

If I started to list all the renewable projects happening across my region, I would be here all morning. Think of the waste these projects will result in. Once again, this is a classic example of people in the metropolitan areas pushing an issue without fully comprehending the long-term impacts to communities they are forcing it upon, as well as the longer term impacts for themselves. There are millions of tonnes of equipment being trucked in for the construction of these projects, which ultimately means there are millions of tonnes of waste that will exist at the end of life for these projects.

I would also like to reinforce the comments made by the member for Bonney, especially in regard to the LNP's commitment to genuine environmental outcomes and the environment portfolio. As a man who is the product of primary industry and having grown up on a farm, I know for a fact that farmers are the true environmentalists—that is right: farmers are the true environmentalists—for we understand the intricate needs of the environment in which we coexist. We do not live in a concrete jungle; we live in the natural landscapes of the bush. This is why farmers are the original recyclers and have always led the way when it comes to innovative ways to reduce waste.

When the local environment is healthy, so is the farm. As there are 13 bioregions across Queensland, what someone may dream of as a healthy environment certainly does not apply to the whole state. I have spent more days working alongside and with my local environment than many members opposite have combined. I have sprayed weeds that were strangling our natural landscapes and killed pests that destroy our native flora and fauna. It also pains me with the sheer amounts of litter I see end up in our natural environment as I travel around. Ultimately, society will always have some level of waste, but in terms of what we do with this and where it ends up, we can certainly do a lot better than we currently are.

Most of the litter I see in our natural environment comes from individuals who clearly do not have the respect for their surroundings that many on this side of the House do. Individual responsibility and respect are fundamental to the LNP core values, and I wish this was a value a few more people in society held. Maybe then, within only hours of a fast-food chain opening in a community, there would

not have been rubbish from this store 20 minutes down the road. For all the talk of changes to the education curriculum, maybe rather than frightening children about issues they themselves cannot change, let us show them how to correctly dispose of waste, because non-toxic waste that is correctly disposed of is of little environmental concern when compared to waste that litters our natural environment.

I also want to briefly comment on the issues raised by the LGAQ. These are genuine and are of concern. My councils work hard and certainly need a lot more support than they are currently getting. Across Callide there are five different local government areas. The state government has already made it difficult for my local governments and many local governments across Queensland to exist. All these local governments and mayors and councils want to do is do what they know best—and that is look after their local communities. Now the government want to censor them further and censor them for raising issues of genuine concern about bad Labor policy.