




Speech By  
**Deb Frecklington**

**MEMBER FOR NANANGO**

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

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (6.12 pm): It gives me pleasure to contribute to the debate on the Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I congratulate the new minister for recycling, the Minister for the Environment, who has just left the child safety portfolio. I am sure that the new minister, recycled into the environment department, is the happiest person in the Queensland parliament after the failures we have seen over consecutive years in the child safety department. I congratulate the minister as I am sure that she is very relieved. The former environment minister is probably quite disappointed to leave a portfolio that she purported to know a little bit about but, unfortunately, has been left wanting.

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As fascinating as the contribution is, I do not see any relevance to the bill before the House.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am simply talking about recycling. We note, and I am happy—

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member, I bring you back to the long title of the bill.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** When talking about recycling and the efforts of the Palaszczuk government, I am more than happy to talk about something that is very close to the heart of every member—certainly members on this side of the chamber. I give a shout-out to Sean Nicholson, Zala, Mayor Elvie Sandow and the unflappable, incredible Andrew Beckett. These people are working so hard and go to great lengths to ensure the success of the materials recovery facility at Cherbourg. This came about thanks to the great support of the LNP and the members of the opposition. I note that it was a former LNP policy in 2016-17 around Containers for Change. We note that the Palaszczuk government adopted the LNP's policy around Containers for Change, as it did the LNP's policy around banning single-use plastics. I have spoken before in this chamber about the MRF.

**Ms King** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am happy to take that interjection from the member for Pumicestone. As I said to the member for Logan today, under the Westminster form of government that we all have the pleasure of serving in, there is a government of the day and an opposition. I understand that the member for Pumicestone might not understand that, but as a member of the opposition I am unable to deliver a government policy because I do not have the department behind me. It is unfortunate that the poor people of the Pumicestone have to have her as their member.

As we have seen for many years, the policies of the Palaszczuk government just come from the opposition benches—time and time again. I note that the policies concerning Containers for Change and single-use plastics that were voiced by the members of the opposition were adopted by the government. There are many issues that we need to talk about.

When talking about openness, accountability and transparency, I note that we have yet another piece of legislation from the Palaszczuk government that gags elected members and elected officials. I refer to the local government sector. The bill talks about gag orders.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am happy to take that interjection. The gag orders are not in the explanatory notes. The Local Government Association of Queensland was not briefed on the gag order that has a massive impact on councils. I refer to my colleague and great mate the shadow minister for local government. There are so many councils across this state—

**Ms Leahy:** Seventy-seven.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Seventy-seven local governments across this state were not consulted. Some 500 councillors were not consulted and will be subject to a gag order, thanks to the Palaszczuk government that apparently was elected on openness, accountability and transparency. This government once again proves that it is anything but open, anything but accountable and—obviously, given this gag order—anything but transparent.

We know that this will block councils and councillors from talking to their constituents and hardworking ratepayers about the waste levy and its impact on households. The shadow minister for the environment, the member for Bonney, said that we support the notion that councillors and councils should not give misinformation around the waste levy. There should be no misinformation, but councillors and local governments will be gagged from talking about the impact on households. I suggest to this House that the No. 1 issue is the cost of living, yet the government is saying, 'Hang on a minute. You're not allowed to talk about the impact on households.' That shows the tin ear of this Palaszczuk government.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Of course it is cost shifting. It is cost shifting on to households. Of course the Palaszczuk government does not want anyone else to know about that. Time and time again in this chamber we talk about the impact on households. That is exactly what that gag order will prevent.

**Ms Leahy:** A sneaky amendment.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** It is a sneaky amendment. Perhaps the new environment minister should look at the LNP's 2020 election commitments. I very proudly announced many recycling policies such as the recycling of solar panels.

We know that there are more and more solar panels coming into this state each and every day—not just on houses but on businesses and schools. We have acres and acres of solar farms going in. I note the one at Kingaroy. No-one in and around that solar farm development wants it. It is going into the beautiful town of Kingaroy. The question I am constantly asked is: what is the government doing about recycling solar panels? They have a life.

Why does the new environment minister, the former child safety minister, not just pick up the LNP's policy and implement it? We have done the hard work. Once again, the LNP has done the policy work for the government. On behalf of the Queenslanders who are interested in the environment, please pick up this policy. We do not just come into this chamber and talk about it; we do something to make sure we recycle things such as the fine minerals out of computers. That was another recycling policy that I took to the last state election. Solar panel recycling is a must. I plead with the new environment minister to do something about solar panel recycling.

It is wonderful that we eventually have recycling in Kingaroy. It is only since January of this year that the good residents of Kingaroy have had recycling. Every second week we can now put out our yellow bins. I promised the kids at Saint Mary's that I would not stop until we got recycling in Kingaroy. I am very pleased that we now have recycling and yellow bins in Kingaroy.

I note that there is much more to be done by the Palaszczuk government in this space. We know that they have once again failed when it comes to the environment and meeting the targets that they set for themselves. I note that the shadow environment minister stated that we have unfortunately been recycling less since the Palaszczuk government has been in office. That is not a record. No wonder the former environment minister has been moved to housing. Oh, my goodness me. I plead with the former child safety minister, now environment minister, to listen to some of our policies and she may get ahead.