




Speech By
Hon. Di Farmer

MEMBER FOR BULIMBA

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WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business, Minister for Training and Skills Development and Minister for Youth Justice) (11.33 am): I rise to speak briefly to the Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023. I do so knowing that this is an issue which is very dear to the hearts of the people in my community. The bill deals with a range of issues which we now will mandate for industry and for Queenslanders in general. I am very proud to say that people in my community have been adopting many of these practices for quite some time.

I refer to the ban on the outdoor release of lighter-than-air balloons and to the exemption from the ban on a single-use plastic item that is an integral part of a shelf-ready product. I know that part of the commitment from the Minister for the Environment—part of the broad range of initiatives encompassed in this and related strategies—is about behaviour change.

I want to shine a light on a couple of significant players in my community that have done a lot to change behaviour, to change the way of thinking and to have the conversation more broadly across the community. One of those is Tangalooma EcoMarines. Although not based in my electorate, it is present in almost every one of my schools. In fact, I think Bulimba State School has been represented since the beginning of the Tangalooma program. I was very proud to have the previous minister for the environment launch the statewide commitment of having Tangalooma EcoMarines in every single school. She chose Morningside State School as the place to launch it because of the commitment of those students and teachers. We had a great time showing the then minister for the environment what that school—and, of course, all of our local schools—is doing around the environment. The purpose of Tangalooma EcoMarines is to raise awareness of the management of plastics and the disastrous effects they can have on our marine life.

I also want to shine a light on the eco forums I have held several times in my electorate. I will be holding another one this year. We have schools, businesses and other organisations exhibiting the work they are doing to make a difference in their own space. We all know that it is really important to pass this legislation and to put systemic practices in place, but every single action that an individual, school, business or organisation takes can make a difference in itself. I am so proud to have 20 or 30 stalls from people the minute I put it out there. People want to show how they make a difference. One of the key players that will be there this year is Circonomy. I do not know whether many members remember the World's Biggest Garage Sale, which started off as a tiny business but is now a massive social enterprise. Now it is called Circonomy and it is based in my electorate. It is a big business. While retaining its status as a social enterprise, it is now a big business that works with major retailers to ensure that not one single thing they might have otherwise disposed of is ever thrown out. They recondition or repurpose items, making them available to pay it forward for people who might be vulnerable and to ensure that nothing at all is wasted. If ever there were a high-profile example of the

circular economy principles that we all should be thinking about, it is Circonomy in my electorate. The impact it has had on people's behaviour, way of thinking and practices simply cannot be measured. I am so excited at the impact it continues to have.

I want to comment briefly on the review of the state's waste management strategy. I remember very clearly the committee of which I was a member just before the 2012 election looking at the waste management levy. We put the levy in place to stop Queensland from being a dumping ground for other states. Quick as a flash, as soon as the LNP returned to government that was reversed. 'Big money' did not want the then government messing with that. Almost as soon as the LNP came to government, we had people dumping in Queensland again. It is so good to see that this government has really taken that by the horns. We were on to it straightaway.

I acknowledge the great work of the previous environment minister and the excellent work that I know the new environment minister will be doing. I am really proud of the Palaszczuk government's record in terms of the environment.