




Speech By  
**Jim McDonald**

**MEMBER FOR LOCKYER**

---

Record of Proceedings, 24 May 2023

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

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (11.17 am), continuing: I appreciate the opportunity to continue my contribution to the debate. As I left off yesterday evening, 77 local governments across Queensland are the major stakeholders when it comes to waste recovery and the waste program across the state and it is very disappointing after speaking to many of the local governments just how poor the consultation has been by the government in that space. There is obviously a silo mentality happening around the environmental programs as opposed to the local government programs and it certainly is something that is brought to our attention very regularly.

As I also mentioned last night, clean earth is one of the greatest resources that the waste program across the state makes use of. A number of the submitters and stakeholders raised the issue that clean earth itself should be recognised as one of the greatest contributors in the resource recovery space. Right across the world people do not talk about waste recovery now; it is resource recovery because of all of the different materials that are available, whether it be the gas that is produced from it, whether it be the solid fill or whether it be other useful items that can be made into energy.

As I said, many of the stakeholders who contributed to this mentioned that clean earth is something that should be used as more of a resource. We recognise that there has been an improvement in that it has reduced to a use of 3.9 million tonnes, but that still is a very large amount of clean earth that is going to fill. With so many housing estates occurring across the state, they are making use of clean earth all of the time and it could be something that could be transferred from some of the resource recovery areas.

As I also mentioned briefly last night, in the resource recovery space only two of the nine metrics were met by this government, which is a sad indictment on it. I challenge the new environment minister to improve those metrics. As I stressed, if this government is serious about improving outcomes in the waste space then it needs to be serious about genuinely consulting with the resource recovery sector. It is a very organised sector and none more so than the seven local governments. As the LGAQ stated in their submission to the inquiry, it would be very valuable to our local government sector if they are strongly consulted in order to deliver better outcomes for the state.

Last night I mentioned the amendment that will be moved by our shadow minister. I believe that we need more detail around that. Declaring how much councils get back through the waste program is an issue for them. Right across the state councils are very concerned that that amount of money will be reduced. You could argue very strongly that it is another indirect tax. It is a cost shift from the state government to local government. At every annual conference local governments raise those concerns.

I was very proud to be a member of the Lockyer Valley Regional Council whilst I was a police officer. The Lockyer Valley won some wonderful awards, including for the very large volume of cardboard that is recycled in the region. It was a pleasure to be on hand for that. I thank very much the Lockyer Valley Regional Council and the Somerset Regional Council for the work that they do in the waste recovery space.