




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (12.04 pm): I wish to support the Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. We do need to recycle and value-add to all products and build strong circular economies where we can. We often hear people say that things are not made to last, that they were made to throw away. That is a very decadent and wasteful way to manufacture goods. We now have an opportunity to stop and think about what we are doing with the resources we consume and what we put out into our waste.

This bill focuses on reducing the amount of waste that goes into landfill while bringing down greenhouse gas emissions, which is very important. The best part of this bill is that it will create more jobs for Queensland through the recycling resource recovery sector. This bill is not only about the environment; it also about focusing on the thousands of jobs that are going to be produced by the circular economy. The targets this government set will: reduce our food waste by half; stop 80 per cent of material from ending up in landfill; and recycle 65 per cent of our rubbish by 2030. This will produce a huge amount of resources that will need to be reprocessed. To achieve this there is significant investment back into our local councils and industries to roll out new green bins, introduce statewide behaviour change campaigns, and co-invest in more recycling infrastructure across our state. This is all part of the Palaszczuk government's \$1.5 billion Recycling and Jobs Fund. When a product is no longer used for its initial purpose there is an opportunity for it to be repurposed into a new product. It is time to stop the throwaway culture we have become accustomed to.

I would now like to comment on how the circular economy in our region has value-added to the agricultural industry. As I see it, this is the future in terms of how we recycle our rubbish. There is a lot of waste in cropping. With some of our crops there is a lot of food left to rot in the ground because supermarkets and points of sale want perfect fruit. This is just a waste, so there is more work to be done so it does not end up in landfill. Traditionally, in the sugarcane industry there was a lot of waste that was burned. Over the years in North Queensland we were famous for our cane fires. In the harvesting season people actually went on holidays to come and look at our cane fires. They bought postcards of them when they were travelling north. So we have changed, and we can change what we do with our crops.

As a result of the circular economy that is evolving in the sugarcane industry, other industries will take a leaf out of their book and evolve and value-add to their resources. For many years mill mud for fertiliser, molasses and bagasse were the main by-products of cane milling and processing. Now we have ethanol, which is also a by-product where the sugar is fermented. It is being used in our local buses. If this trial works, there will be more buses rolled out across North Queensland. This fermentation process can also be used to produce protein. There are many businesses knocking on doors around Mackay that want to use this process to value-add to food manufacturing.

For years, the bagasse was used to power steam boilers in our sugar mills, and Racecourse Mill used it for cogeneration to produce a third of Mackay's electricity. This by-product is now being used by Mercurius to make aviation fuel and marine fuel. Their trials in Mackay are about four years away from realising this fuel being used commercially in our planes. If this one crop in Queensland can produce all of these resources using every drop and every thread of fibre from its crop, I can see that there is so much opportunity for all of our other industries to take a leaf out of this industry. I commend the bill to the House.