




Speech By  
**Lance McCallum**

**MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 May 2023

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

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.31 pm): I rise in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to begin my contribution by acknowledging the work of the former minister for the environment, the member for Gaven, and to welcome the new minister, the member for Nudgee.

This bill provides a step change, a step forward, in terms of a contemporary waste management framework for Queensland because the Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to moving towards a zero waste society through our Queensland waste strategy. There needs to be a greater focus on avoiding the creation of waste altogether and increasing re-use and recycling. We need less waste and we need more job-creating recycling, which is better for our community, the environment and the economy.

When it comes to this bill, it is really great to see that the principles of a circular economy which underpin our waste strategy are being hardwired into our legislation. When it comes to taking effective measures to reduce waste, the introduction of the waste levy by the Palaszczuk Labor government resulted in a significant reduction in the volume of waste coming into Queensland from interstate. That is why it was so very poor for Queensland to see that waste levy scrapped by the LNP when they came into government. That crippled Queensland's recycling industry. It made it profitable to dump waste in Queensland. The LNP also cut 65 staff from the environmental regulator. By scrapping the waste levy, what the LNP did was open up the floodgates for waste to come into Queensland and no community suffered more than Ipswich.

I will refer to an old media article from 2018 which ran in the ABC. It had the title 'Dumped waste levy recycled by Queensland in a bid to stop rubbish at the border'. An excerpt from this article states that it is the Palaszczuk Labor government reinstating the waste levy here in Queensland. It states—

But the Opposition has condemned the move, saying it will be a tax on Queenslanders.

Ipswich, west of Brisbane, had become a hotbed for interstate waste after the former LNP government scrapped a waste levy in 2012.

Sometimes media reports are not entirely accurate, so let's jump forward to February 2019 when there was a debate in this place about reinstating the waste levy in Queensland. I believe at that time the now leader of the LNP was the shadow minister for the environment and the member for Everton was very keen to back in his then shadow minister and now leader. I will read from his contribution to that debate on 13 February 2019. He stated—

As has already been stated by the shadow minister, the LNP will be voting against this bill.

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When we talk about this levy all we are talking about is a con and a sham. The Queensland Labor government is once again duping the Queensland public. Of course this is not for the environment: this is simply a tax grab.

What a difference a little bit of time makes. It is very clear that it is only the Palaszczuk Labor government that will take serious action on progress towards a circular economy here in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.