




Speech By
Lance McCallum

MEMBER FOR BUNDAMBA

Record of Proceedings, 24 October 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Ipswich, Odour Issues

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (7.10 pm): Our Bundamba community and Ipswich more broadly is being impacted by odours from waste operators, and composters in particular. These companies have zero social licence in our community because they show zero respect. There is another stench that is impacting our community, and that is the stench of hypocrisy from the LNP. At a recent community meeting, the member for Bonney, Senator Paul Scarr and the mayor of Ipswich—all LNP members—had plenty to say but they left out a few key details. They neglected to mention that the LNP scrapped the waste levy under the Newman government. They never mentioned that it was the Palaszczuk Labor government that reinstated it—saving hundreds of thousands of tonnes from going to landfill in Ipswich. They neglected to mention that the Electoral Commission of Queensland public donation disclosures reveal that the LNP has accepted over \$150,000 in donations from waste companies since 2016. This includes companies that operate in Swanbank—like Cleanaway, NuGrow and BMI. I table those electoral donation disclosures.

Tabled paper: Bundle of electoral disclosure statements relating to donations made to the Liberal National Party by Cleanaway Pty Ltd, Nugrow Pty Ltd and BMI Group [1737](#).

It is rank hypocrisy by the LNP to talk tough at our public meeting whilst they have been taking donations from the very same companies that are responsible for these odours. The LNP are clearly trying to take our community for mugs, and every elected member of the LNP in Ipswich should hang their heads in shame.

What is needed is real action. We need every level of government to step up, and that includes the Ipswich City Council. I urge the Ipswich City Council to rethink their multimillion dollar contract with NuGrow and their recent approval of a new compost dump. Ipswich Labor MPs and Palaszczuk government members are getting on with the job. We passed laws earlier this year with stronger penalties and powers. We are consulting right now on reforms which include hardwiring health and human safety into the legal definition of environmental harm, as well as introducing things like the precautionary principle and polluter pays. We have always said that we should be throwing the book at these companies if they are doing the wrong thing, and we are actually writing a bigger book. As local MPs and members of this government, we will always step up to meet our responsibilities. We will always call out LNP hypocrisy, bad decisions from local government and appalling behaviour from waste companies.