




Speech By
Samuel O'Connor

MEMBER FOR BONNEY

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Ipswich Environment Advocacy

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.18 pm): For the second sitting week in a row, I rise to raise the disgusting stench that the people of Ipswich have been putting up with for far too long. They have had enough, and the members of IRATE and Stop The Stink have continued to advocate, and the community forum last week showed the strength of their advocacy. I would especially like to commend Geoff Yarham for his outstanding work on this issue.

The Mayor of Ipswich, Teresa Harding, has also stepped up to take on the issue, even spending around \$8 million in legal fees to take on some of the operators on behalf of the people of Ipswich. Mayor Harding asked for three things at the community forum. She asked for more urgent action from the environment department—the strongest response within its powers—to hold noncompliant waste operators to account, because we have seen some of these companies run rings around the government. She asked for a clear time line for when Cleanaway's cell 3B is closing, as per the member for Bundamba's announcement in August 2022, and for a public health inquiry to investigate the potential impact this is having on the people of Ipswich. The opposition has also stepped up and a couple of weeks ago I, the deputy leader and the shadow health minister stood alongside the mayor and brave locals Tracey and Michelle to call for the immediate establishment of a public health inquiry. We were joined by a very special guest at our press conference—the former Labor member for Bundamba Jo-Ann Miller. Here is some of what this former Labor MP had to say. She said—

What you will see is me advocating on behalf of (advocacy groups) Stop the Stink and IRATE, and our local residents, who still contact me daily because they can't get any answers out of their state MPs.

She went on to say—

You can't organise a barbecue in these areas on the weekend because you don't know whether it's going to be stinking that much you will have to cancel and be locked inside.

This week it has been reported that the environment department is now handing out canisters to schools and day care centres to monitor their air quality. It is bewildering to me that the environment department thinks it is worth offering these canisters to monitor the air quality of local kids but the health department does not think it is worth holding a public health inquiry. Surely it is at least worth looking into in this way. Why not set up an inquiry to make sure there are no health impacts from this stench? It would reassure residents to know that potential health impacts are being fully assessed and if anything is found it will make it clear the action that is needed to fix this issue. The people of Ipswich deserve better. They have supported the Labor Party time and time again. They deserve to be properly represented. They deserve to have people stand up for them.