



Speech By  
**Hon. Samuel O'Connor**  
**MEMBER FOR BONNEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 16 October 2025

## **PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

### **Container Refund Scheme**

 **Hon. ST O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works and Minister for Youth) (2.28 pm): The Health, Environment and Innovation Committee's report tabled by the member for Southport into Coex contains some of the same concerns and alarm bells that Queenslanders and industry figures had been raising with me for many years in my time as shadow environment minister, but the report goes far beyond that. Anytime issues were raised about Coex over the last four years, they were ignored and ridiculed by the member for Gaven, the member for Nudgee, the member for Algester and the member for Murrumba. Those members should have to answer for this disaster of a scheme that they have overseen as environment ministers of this state.

From day one this container deposit scheme, which should have been nation leading thanks to its bipartisan support from the LNP, was hastily put together with no open tender process in a secretive plan behind closed doors, stitched up by the member for Murrumba. As Gayle Sloan, the CEO of the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia said—

... we were not consulted.

...

There was no tender. Nothing went to market and no-one else was invited to apply ...

The report also outlined financial mismanagement and mismanagement of the scheme itself; behaviour and allegations so concerning that 10 separate matters have been referred to the CCC not just about current Coex players, but former ones as well; and a board that was run as a closed shop filled with union mates and chaired by a former failed Labor candidate who even ran as a state candidate whilst chair of Coex. We have seen false promises made by those opposite about a new income stream for charities and not-for-profits.

The member for Gaven, happy as always to get in front of the cameras and promote an expensive ad campaign, was there encouraging kids to recycle poppers, promising millions of dollars for schools. However, the member for Gaven did not reveal to Queenslanders that none of those poppers were being recycled in Queensland; they were all being exported to India. The member had absolutely no idea whether those containers were recycled or not.

It has been revealed Coex had huge surpluses at the same time it was improving recycling rates. They were sitting on tens of millions of dollars and refusing to invest and expand the state's recycling capacity. Today we have uncovered far more. Page 147 of the report notes that the former government was aware of these issues as far back as April 2019 but they did nothing. This report reinforces that it is the same old Labor Party. They think the job is done when the press conference ends and when things go wrong they will bury, hide and refuse to take responsibility. The Labor Party pretend they care about the environment, but it is all talk. The LNP is getting on with the job of protecting more of our state and better managing our natural environment.