



Speech By  
**Wendy Bourne**

**MEMBER FOR IPSWICH WEST**

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Record of Proceedings, 11 February 2026

## ADJOURNMENT

### Ipswich, Waste

 **Ms BOURNE** (Ipswich West—ALP) (9.17 pm): On 20 January our national broadcaster introduced Ipswich to viewers across the nation as Australia's dumping ground, presented as an inevitability, a natural consequence of being next door to Brisbane rather than the unfair and deliberate expectation that our region should host harmful waste in our backyards. This particular report by the ABC referenced a site in my electorate housing the uncovered by-product of nickel processing. Many residents fear sitting on their patios and opening windows in their own homes with such waste on their doorstep. Goodness knows what is in the dust coming into their homes.

This is far from an isolated case. Unregulated and poorly planned industrial activity has left families in my electorate suffering noxious odours and airborne hazards that invade their homes, their schools and their backyards. Parents cannot let their children play outside, locals cannot open their windows and their complaints to this LNP government fall on deaf ears. A recent public health inquiry into Ipswich industrial estates found that the waste housed by these sites is negatively impacting my community's health and wellbeing—an inquiry, might I add, that took heavy grassroots campaigning from my community to even get off the ground and which did not even include several key communities in my electorate until public outcry forced the health minister's hand.

Every step of the way we have had to force people to listen. I implore those opposite to ask themselves: would they tolerate this in their backyard? Would they wince through the smell, squint against the dust? Would they brave the confirmed risk of respiratory, neurological, gastrointestinal, skin and mental health conditions arising from the presence of these industries mere metres from their homes? Then why should we? Why is it assumed that Ipswich will shoulder the burden, that regulations must be enforced everywhere but Ipswich, that quality of life must be considered everywhere but Ipswich? We deserve the same standards, the same protections, the same respect every other community in this state gets. We deserve to open our windows in the summer. We deserve to share a coldie with mates on the verandah. We deserve to have a barbecue with our neighbours. Our kids deserve to play outside. We deserve quality of life.

I call on the government to listen to the people of Ipswich West, to review the planning decisions that place industrial developments too close to homes, to strengthen environmental safeguards and to, most importantly, establish a community reference group for our community to hold these industries to account. We are only Australia's dumping ground so long as the government makes us so. It is time for that to change.