

Question on Notice
No. 1806
Asked on Thursday 1 November 2007

QUESTION:

MR MOORHEAD asked the Minister for Sustainability, Climate Change and Innovation (Mr McNamara)—

- (1) What changes have occurred in the waste produced and recycled by Queensland households?
- (2) What initiatives are in place to reduce waste sent to landfill?

ANSWER:

- (1) The Queensland population is growing and over the last four years the waste produced by Queensland households has increased by 20%; but recycling has increased by 44%.

The increase in the recycling rate is due to expanded kerbside recycling and public drop-off recycling services for not only packaging materials but also for hazardous household wastes, used oils, old batteries and green waste.

- (2) The National Packaging Covenant, the co-regulatory framework for packaging management in Australia, provides a target to freeze the amount of packaging going to landfill to 2003 levels. The Queensland Government is a signatory and therefore fully committed to the Covenant. Data obtained in 2005 on the performance of the Covenant shows that Australians are reducing their waste to landfill and there is a strong likelihood that the Covenant target will be met. Under the Covenant the Queensland Government has funded a number of State and regional projects, for example:
 - a major Public Place Recycling campaign across Queensland that will make recycling away from home as consistent and reliable as our very effective domestic kerbside systems;
 - a glass crusher demonstration plant in Cairns that will see glass fines being used locally instead of being disposed as a waste in landfills; and
 - a mobile baler for the North Burnett regional councils to divert paper and cardboard and aluminium and plastic containers from landfill for efficient transport back to South East Queensland for reprocessing.

Recently the Queensland Government released a discussion paper on a new Queensland Waste Strategy. Queenslanders currently are landfilling more wastes per capita than in southern states. This paper is the first step in turning our throw away mentality into one that values resources. The waste management hierarchy, with reduction and reuse being the preferred management options, will be the foundation behind any new strategy. This will assist stakeholders to guide the Queensland Government as to what future waste management and resource recovery initiatives are needed for Queensland and how these initiatives are to be funded. It is hoped that all Queenslanders will participate in this process.