

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 256

asked on Tuesday, 1 April 2014

MR RICKUSS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PROTECTION (MR POWELL)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the LNP Government's waste, rubbish and recycling strategy is progressing?

ANSWER:

The *Waste—Everyone's responsibility: Draft Waste Avoidance and Resource Productivity Strategy for Queensland (2014 - 2024)* was released for public consultation on 15 April 2014.

It is anticipated that the final strategy will be released in September 2014, delivering on the election commitment to prepare an industry-led waste strategy.

The draft strategy is industry focused and has been developed collaboratively by a Steering Committee chaired by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection and comprising representatives from the waste and resource recovery sector, local government, community and environment groups, business including peak industry associations and representatives from the four pillars of the Queensland economy.

The vision is that Queensland will become a national leader in innovative waste management and resource recovery.

This ties directly into the work that the Queensland Government is doing with the community to finalise The Queensland Plan. One of our priorities from the plan is balancing environmental protection and economic development in Queensland. One of the proposed ways to measure our progress in this area is by addressing our rate of waste generation. A good waste strategy will be the key to achieving this goal.

Good waste management practices help protect the environment, underpin community health and well-being and contribute significantly to the economy. This strategy focuses on identifying the most important issues and waste streams for action.

An important aspect of the draft is the focus on regional collaboration and finding local solutions to help grow jobs in these areas and keep the value of the material in the economy – and the local economy – for as long as possible.

The draft strategy proposes targets for reducing waste generation and improving waste recovery. The Department of Environment and Heritage Protection has

invested in an improved database for the collation of waste disposal and recycling data to support improved reporting and transparency in this area.

The strategy is a high-level document outlining the direction, principles and objectives for waste management and resource recovery in Queensland over the next 10 years. The strategy, once finalised, will be supported by action plans developed by the State Government and industry groups and sectors.

The department is also consulting with other departments on the draft strategy and the development of the whole-of-government action plan to be released with the final strategy.