

## Question on Notice

No. 686

Asked on Tuesday, 12 June 2018

**MR M HEALY** ASKED THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE GREAT BARRIER REEF, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND MINISTER FOR THE ARTS (HON L ENOCH)—

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise how the waste levy will support regional Queensland?

ANSWER:

I thank the Honourable Member for the question.

The Palaszczuk Government is developing a comprehensive waste management strategy, underpinned by a waste levy, which will incentivise the recycling industry to scale up much needed infrastructure, encourage investment and create jobs.

The LNP's repeal of the waste levy in 2012 robbed Queensland of the ability to invest in the waste and recycling industry and left Queensland as the only mainland State without the levy.

Waste sent to landfill is a lost economic opportunity.

It has been estimated that, while every 10,000 tonnes of waste disposed into landfill supports less than three full time jobs, the same amount of waste being recycled supports more than nine jobs.

Importantly, the State Government will use revenue generated by the levy to support the growth of the recycling and resource recovery industry, including advanced processing facilities such as biofuel manufacturing plants, in regional areas. Not only does this create jobs but it also makes the Queensland economy more resilient to the impact of volatile international trade decisions such as China's recent 'National Sword' policies.

Our commitment around the waste levy is clear: It will not cost Queenslanders any more to put out their wheelie bins. The Government will provide an annual advance to local government so the levy will not be passed through to households. \$32 million has been allocated for this purpose in 2018-19.

In addition, in the 2018-19 State Budget, \$100 million has been allocated over three years to work with business and local councils to develop a high-value resource recovery industry through the Resource Recovery Industry Development Program.