



Speech By **Mark Boothman**

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WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (WASTE LEVY) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (4.47 pm): Late last year the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts introduced the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill to the Queensland parliament. Throughout history Labor has always enjoyed adding a new tax to offset its lack of fiscal management. Taxing families by stealth through increasing electricity, water and vehicle registration costs was not enjoyable enough for those opposite; they had to go back to their core values—tax, tax, tax. No matter how Labor spins it, this is nothing more than a tax grab from average mums and dads. Labor's excuse was interstate dumping of rubbish in Queensland. Those opposite love to blame the LNP for everything, but the government's own report found that interstate dumping dramatically increased under Labor yet decreased during the LNP years of government.

It should be noted that the LNP incorporated effective compliance measures that controlled and limited the interstate waste coming into our state. In addition, Labor allowed the free-for-all dumping of waste in Ipswich by developing superdumps—a quick and easy revenue stream for the Labor Ipswich City Council. These superdumps in Ipswich—Cleanaway New Chum and Lantrak's Swanbank landfill—together account for one-quarter of all waste dumped in Queensland landfill. It is interesting to note that these dumps were approved by a previous Labor government. This was not enough for the Labor Ipswich City Council. It wanted to set a new benchmark with a new sump dump facility at New Chum. If this facility was allowed to be built, it would take up to 1.1 million tonnes of waste each year. To make matters worse for Ipswich residents, this facility would be built in close proximity to suburbs.

I have memories of a green waste recycling facility in the former Albert electorate that caused extensive concerns for local residents. This facility had been approved some time before I was first elected, yet the locals were continually reminded because of its daily impacts. As I said, it was a green waste facility and if the wind was blowing in a certain direction residents would have to close all of the windows in their houses to stop the odours coming in. The local business tried to limit it by putting a deodoriser on the hill so that when the wind blew through there was a deodoriser smell, and this deodoriser had a Cherry Ripe smell. Just imagine a Cherry Ripe smell and a green waste leachate smell going over your house—I can tell members that I do not think the local service station sold a single damn Cherry Ripe. I am serious. It stunk!

Therefore, it is critically important that these facilities are built some distance away from housing developments to ensure a quality of life for residents and workers alike. One resident from my former electorate contacted me when he heard that this bill was brought forward asking whether this would increase the likelihood of these facilities popping up locally and in unfavourable locations. One would hope not, because I would hate to see another community suffer the way that these individuals did. Furthermore, local governments have the power to rein in accepting this waste for landfill from outside their council boundaries. There is no better example than the Gold Coast City Council which has increased its facility fees for waste coming in from outside the city.

Therefore, this bill does not fix the problem. It just proves that this is a tax grab for revenue raising. This tax will have real, tangible impacts on individuals who can ill afford it, especially first home buyers given the leftover rubbish resulting from building a new home and even renovations, making that dream of owning your home that little bit harder to obtain. Another serious concern is the increase in illegal dumping activities in bushland or a quiet cul-de-sac. In recent times in my electorate there has been a spike in illegal dumping. We live in the most beautiful place on the planet, yet it is disgusting that these individuals are doing this. These individuals see it as a cop-out in order to not pay the additional fees, because unfortunately there are those in our society who will do that. The councils then have to send out teams at their cost to clean up these messes.

As I said, we live in truly the best part of the planet, yet this is nothing more than a \$1.3 billion tax grab while less than 10 per cent will be spent on environmental outcomes. I certainly do feel for the poor people of Ipswich who have to put up with these dumps and these proposed dumps which will impact their day-to-day lives. I hope that this government takes that into account and gives a damn about its own voter base in Ipswich and says no to these superdumps which are being proposed.