

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (WASTE COLLECTION) AMENDMENT BILL**

The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON (21:48): I will not be too long on this. I thank the Hon. Mark Parnell for his detailed information regarding the success so far of the trials of the weekly collections. I also oppose this bill, and my main reason for that is that, as I understand it, we are still in the middle of trials. I do not believe it is good practice or good policy to bring in legislation midway through trials, before we have had time to collect the data from those trials and then arrive at a conclusion. It is not good practice to cut trials short because we often find that the end result is unsatisfactory.

I want to concentrate on one issue that might seem a little strange—disposable nappies. It is not that long ago that I was changing nappies, and I am sure that most females in the chamber who have been mothers and who are my age or a little older are confused about why disposable nappies have become such a necessary item. I for one cannot comprehend people being in a position to keep their babies in disposable nappies all the time. We used them in emergencies, such as when we were going out somewhere, but the rest of the time we used cloth nappies. I am a bit of a greenie at heart.

The Hon. Carmel Zollo interjecting:

The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON: Well, if you are worried about a stinky bin, and if you must use disposable nappies, you can put a nappy liner in the disposable nappy and, when it is soiled, pull out the nappy liner, flush it down the toilet and away you go. I think as consumers—

The Hon. S.G. Wade: It will end up in the desal.

The Hon. A. BRESSINGTON: One problem at a time! As consumers, I think we have become very lazy. As the Hon. Mark Parnell said, we have bought into, 'Buy it, use it, throw it away,' and it is catching up with us. For me, disposable nappies are a real irk on the environment because they create such unnecessary waste. Be it judgmental, but I think that mothers are terribly lazy if they use disposable nappies all the time. There are alternatives, and they are easy to look after—and I did it with four kids in nappies. You washed the nappies, hung them out, dried them and used them again, and the disposable nappy was a luxury you used only if you were going out somewhere or whatever.

As to prawn shells that will stink in bins, I think most people who live in this climate, where it is pleasant to eat prawns and have cold beer, or whatever it is we do over the summer months, know that you wrap the prawn shells in paper, stick them in your freezer and wait for collection day to put them in the bin; anybody who does not do that has rocks in their head because it is common practice now.

Part of the issue of the fortnightly collection of rubbish is that it requires individuals to take a level of responsibility for their plot of earth and manage it in the best way possible. We see waste and the environment as global issues, and I honestly believe that individuals living in the community have lost the motivation to take that personal responsibility because they see all these problems as so large.

However, if we all got back to basics and looked after and managed our own plot of ground the best way possible—by using, re-using, recycling and being sensible about how we

manage our household—it would have a good impact on the amount of rubbish that is thrown out and the responsibility of councils to dispose of it and find areas where they can continually extend landfill.

All in all, let us wait for the trial to finish and see the results. We have seen the statistics the Hon. Mark Parnell presented about how, over time, people who have adjusted to change have adjusted favourably. We have talked about educating the community in the better management of their household and plot of ground. Let us move forward with this sensibly, rather than having a knee-jerk reaction and caving into what seems to me to be media pressure.

I have a great deal of admiration for Leon Byner and how he runs his shows on certain issues, but this particular one where there was talk about making rubbish the election issue for 2010, to me, was a bit far-fetched. I think we have far greater problems than whether we collect rubbish weekly or fortnightly for the 2010 election. I would hate to see this place make a decision based on media pressure rather than on good practice and common sense.