




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

---

Record of Proceedings, 16 June 2016

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; DUTIES AND  
OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.22 pm): It gives me much pleasure to rise to speak in support of another great Labor budget that continues the great work of last year. I congratulate the Treasurer, the Premier and all the ministers on doing the hard yards of delivering on our election commitments in an economically responsible way during challenging economic times. This budget will create jobs through a focus on innovation, attracting investment and infrastructure.

The budget's continued focus on innovation is crucial. The small business owners who attended the small business forum that I ran with Minister Enoch just last week will welcome the \$22.7 million Advancing Small Business strategy, particularly the digital capability grants. At our forum we discussed the fact that up to 50 per cent of small businesses do not have an online presence or strategy. The initiative will help to connect our local businesses to a global market.

The many people in my electorate who work in the field of genomics will welcome Accelerating Advance Queensland. I had the opportunity of touring the Transitional Research Institute, which is an amazing facility. I was absolutely blown away by the work being done in the area of genomics. That work will revolutionise the way that we will treat and cure cancer and infectious diseases.

Public transport is a key issue in my electorate. Whether I am at a public transport stop talking to people on their way to school, at a school fete or volunteering at the Holland Park Meals on Wheels, people tell me that public transport is crucial for our community, with its rapidly increasing population density. The \$50 million to kickstart the Cross River Rail project will be applauded in my electorate. The Fairer Fares for South-East Queensland initiative will make an incredible difference to everybody in my community, including families, students, pensioners and workers. I am particularly pleased that we will be supporting jobseekers through the establishment of the concessional fare. Off-peak extensions are a big win for workers who start early. From personal experience, I know that sitting on a bus platform at 5 am in the middle of winter never really feels like rush hour. Families will welcome the free travel on weekends for kids. I know many families will now take a bus on family outings, instead of the car.

Perhaps that family outing will be to a blockbuster exhibition at GoMA. It is great to see funding restored to this important initiative, as GoMA attracts tourists from around the world while enriching our state's cultural life. Local arts organisations will also benefit from this budget. I am pleased that the budget includes funding to support the great work that 4MBS does in our community and in the entire state.

On Tuesday night it was pleasing to be able to visit the P&C meeting at the Nursery Road Special School to talk to parents about the \$600,000 that has been set aside to build an oval so that students with special needs can participate in sport. Every student deserves the right to have the opportunity to

be physically active. That is why I am also pleased that over \$90,000 has been allocated to the Seville Road State School to create a collaborative outdoor learning area. All the schools in my electorate certainly will benefit from the Schools of the Future initiative.

Last year, on the May Day weekend, several houses in my electorate were flooded during a severe weather event. The \$1.3 million being spent on flood mitigation will give great comfort to the young couple I helped clean up after the flood, as it will help to prevent future floods in this area. As well, it will create more green space for our local community. That is important. We have viable koala populations in the Whites Hill and Mount Gravatt reserves. The members of the Mount Gravatt Environment Group and the Coorparoo State School environment club will welcome the \$12 million allocated to koala conservation. All of my constituents will welcome the next instalment of \$22 million in funding to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

Recently I organised a second round table of community leaders to discuss our response to domestic violence. Building on the first round table, we reached out to community organisations such as the Holland Park Hawks, the Holland Park Lions Club and the Coorparoo Uniting Church. Like me, those groups will welcome the fact that the government has backed the implementation of the *Not now, not ever* report recommendations with significant funding.

This is not just a great budget; it is another step in what has been ongoing responsible economic management by the Treasurer, the Premier and the entire ministerial team: unemployment down, debt down, business confidence up, more nurses, more teachers, more doctors, more police, more paramedics, more action on saving the reef, more action on domestic violence, more innovation, more investment and more infrastructure. This is economic management and leadership that is transforming our economy and transforming our community, all done with a surplus and without having to sell assets. I commend these bills to the House.