




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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CROSS RIVER RAIL DELIVERY AUTHORITY BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.54 pm): I support the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill 2016. I take a moment to note on this World AIDS Day that 35 million people have died from AIDS.

This is an important step in delivering an important piece of infrastructure. It has been a long week and I am tired. I have not had much sleep. At times tonight when listening to the debate on the previous bill I felt like I was hallucinating, that history was being rewritten, and now we have people talking again about the BaT tunnel. Much like Batman, that is a piece of fiction. It probably makes a good comic, but it is never going to be reality. Let us talk about what will be reality.

It is imperative that we continue to invest in public transport infrastructure. A few weeks ago I took the opportunity, as did many other members of this House, to go along and listen to Engineers Australia. What were they talking about? They were talking about how to fund infrastructure. What did they talk about and recommend? They talked about value capture. If a body like Engineers Australia is suggesting that value capturing is something that responsible governments should explore, I think it is certainly something we should be considering.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I know that, like me, you are very concerned about public transport infrastructure. Often when we raise these issues we are labelled as nimbies and inner-city trendies. Those labels are completely wrong and completely unfair. My electorate, like yours, has been impacted by major infrastructure for many decades—freeways, busways, veloways, hospital redevelopments and tunnels. While this infrastructure is valuable to our community, the truth is this infrastructure serves the entirety of South-East Queensland and often the entirety of the state. So too will the Cross River Rail. It will benefit my electorate, but it will benefit the entirety of South-East Queensland. It will open up our capacity to increase transport corridors. We have a choke point and we cannot increase capacity unless we deal with that choke point. The Cross River Rail will give us the capacity to do that.

My community, like yours, Madam Deputy Speaker, is changing rapidly. We are seeing massive increases in density. It is absolutely imperative that we get the infrastructure right to support this growth. I have met with Minister Jones to discuss school infrastructure and together you and I have met with the Deputy Premier, our neighbour, to discuss many infrastructure issues. Like ourselves, the Deputy Premier is a passionate advocate for improving public infrastructure. It is sad that those opposite do not support this bill. They want to stand in the way of the authority that will make this entire project happen.

Public transport has changed so much in the years that I have been using it in Brisbane. Unlike the Prime Minister, I do not just stroll onto it every now and then to make a point, I have used it consistently throughout my career. When I started work I could not use it because as a shiftworker it would not deliver me to and from hospitals at the time I needed to be there so I had to walk or use a bike. It is not fun riding home through the Valley at 11 o'clock at night in a white nurse's uniform I can tell members. In my last jobs in two different hospitals on two different sides of town I could use public transport for all shifts. Earlier one of the honourable members on the other side of the House described

public transport as middle class welfare. Perhaps that member should come on a bus with me, as I used to do, at 5.30 in the morning and see those workers going to work in hospitals, in nursing homes or to schools as cleaners.

Many people use public transport. People in my electorate want to choose public transport. The researchers who work at Griffith Uni or the TRI want to use it. Families want to use it to get to their local parks and to shopping centres. Young people want to catch buses to and from concerts and restaurants. Engineers and geologists want to head into the city for work in mining and agricultural firms that benefit our entire state. There are things that make it more likely that people will choose to use public transport: it must be safe; it must be easy to use—I think that the go card and the TransLink app innovations have made a huge difference to the ease with which we can use public transport; it must be affordable—I acknowledge the great work of the transport minister with the Fairer Fares program; it must be frequent; and it must be well connected—this authority is an important step in building frequency and connectivity across our entire network.

Our community is changing due to increasing density. We must make sure it changes for the better by getting the infrastructure in place to support an increasing population. This bill is an important step in achieving that objective. I call on those opposite to get on board and support this important piece of infrastructure. I note that many of the speakers are not from South-East Queensland and I welcome their interest in this issue, because it does affect our entire state. I ask them to support the bill. People in my electorate support it and I know that you, Madam Deputy Speaker, support it. I commend the bill to the House.