




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2017

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.30 pm): It will get you home faster, it will create jobs, it will be better for the environment and it will reduce congestion. Of course I am referring to the No. 1 priority infrastructure project for the Palaszczuk government, the Cross River Rail. Constituents in my electorate have been speaking about this project a lot over the last few years, ever since it was cancelled by the Newman government. They understand what it means for our community, for South-East Queensland and for our entire state. My constituents understand that for one part of Queensland to prosper we must all prosper. The Premier, the Treasurer, the Deputy Premier and in fact all members on this side of the House understand the significance of this project. That is why I am absolutely ecstatic that the Treasurer has announced that we will totally fund this massive investment in public transport. Our population continues to grow and we must invest in infrastructure to meet those growing demands. Public transport is an essential service and is being favoured as the primary means of transport by an increasing number of people in my electorate.

When I spoke about the project recently with Simon, a young business owner and constituent in my area, he told me that he supports the project because it is good for the environment, but he asked if we were really serious about this project. Next time I see him I will be telling him that we are serious enough to totally fund the project. It remains disappointing that those opposite and their colleagues in Canberra are not serious about investing in Cross River Rail and public transport in South-East Queensland. It is becoming apparent and clear that only a Labor government will deliver this crucial investment in public transport.

Jobs are one of the key benefits of investment in projects like the Cross River Rail. Like all members of the Palaszczuk Labor government, my No. 1 priority is job creation. I have seen the benefits of programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work in my electorate for organisations like Vision Australia. They have a program that assists people with low or no vision who have been unemployed for a long period of time to enter the workforce. I applauded the Back to Work program for regional Queensland, but I have always said to the minister, the Treasurer and the Premier that I want it in South-East Queensland. I am pleased that the Treasurer is part of a government that listens and has announced the rollout of this program in South-East Queensland—benefiting people right across my electorate.

I recently met a young man who has gained qualifications with both TAFE and university. He has done the right thing. He has done volunteer work, he has gained work experience, but he has still struggled to find work. The Back to Work program will give employers real incentives to give a motivated young person a chance to get a start in life. That is what Labor does—we help people to get a start and they keep going and they give back more than they have ever received. That is certainly what happened for me. I am proud to be part of a government that is making employment and meaningful jobs a reality for young people in my community.

Social housing comprises roughly seven per cent of the households in my electorate. The 10-year Housing Strategy will be welcomed by everyone in my electorate, and Minister de Brenni is to be congratulated on his fine work in developing this strategy. We need to ensure that there is a mix of housing available in our area. It is what makes our community so vibrant; it is what makes our community so diverse. This project will allow for the renewal of housing stock, as well as an increase in housing stock. Of course, more than just providing housing, this strategy will drive local job creation, benefiting everyone—building housing, building employment and building community.

The people of my electorate understand that education is key to success in life for individuals and is key to success for our society. It is fundamental to building community. I have personally been the beneficiary of the transformative power of education. Parents in my electorate tell me about how impressed they are with the advancing education action plan. This plan has seen the establishment of the Reading Centre and Autism Hub in Woolloongabba. I had the great pleasure of taking P&C and P&F volunteers for a tour through that facility last year. We were so impressed with the support that these services can provide for students not just in our community but right throughout the entire state.

Minister Jones spoke about this plan and the investment our government is making in supporting students, teachers, parents and schools at a forum I organised at the Holland Park State School for members of P&Cs and P&Fs. The action plan has seen teachers, guidance officers and teacher aides put back to work, with approximately 25 teachers, seven guidance officers and 200 hours per week of teacher aide time added over the last two years in my electorate.

Supportive parents and staff are absolutely essential to good educational outcomes. Parents will be excited to learn about the advancing education infrastructure plan. We need good infrastructure as well to deliver excellent education. This builds on the work done over the last few years at schools like Mount Gravatt high, Nursery Road State Special School, Coorparoo Secondary College and Holland Park State School. The announcements in this budget will see a new hall at Cavendish Road State High School and a refurbishment of block A at Greenslopes State School. Of course, these projects will also lead to more local jobs. I am proud to be part of a government that is focused on ensuring a great education for every student in our community. Investment in education builds community.

In addition to our government's investment in public transport, job creation and education, I could also speak about these issues: the re-establishment of the drug courts; the record investment in adolescent mental health services, something I am very passionate about; the massive boost in services for child safety; the soon-to-be rebuilt Sciencentre; and the investment in our local sporting infrastructure. All of these things are in the budget and I am extremely proud of them. However, the people in my area are rightly concerned about jobs, public transport and education so I have chosen to focus on these key issues. The investments in these three key areas will ensure that, as my community grows, we will build the infrastructure necessary to build a great community—a community that is a great place to live and raise a family, a community that contributes to and is part of a prosperous Queensland. This is a great budget for public transport. This is a great budget for education. This is a great budget for jobs. This is a great budget for Greenslopes.