




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 August 2017

### **SAFER WATERWAYS BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.42 am): I rise to oppose this motion. I am going to try to do so without anticipating a bill that is before the House. Our committee has taken this bill quite seriously. Part of the reason I will not anticipate the bill before the House is that as the chair of the committee and as a member of the committee—as all members of our committee do—I keep an open mind in relation to any legislation that comes before us. We work through the tenets of the legislation and try to understand the issues, listen to all sides of the argument and try to provide a report back to the House that provides guidance for members. That is exactly what we have done in this instance.

There have been some mentions in the media by other members of this House which to me were designed and made for political reasons. I raised concerns because I felt that those statements that were made in the media were not fair. I am really pleased that the members who made those statements acknowledged that and we resolved those concerns.

I want to put on record what the committee has done and what the committee intends to do. We received the referral. We have had a public briefing from the member for Dalrymple. While we were on a visit to the electorate of the member for Keppel in relation to another matter, we took the opportunity to visit a crocodile farm in that electorate. We talked to a gentleman who has been in this industry for over 40 years and had very strong views on certain aspects of the bill, particularly in relation to egg harvesting. We intend—and we have dates set down—for the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection to come and brief us on this matter. We also have dates set down for public hearings on this matter both here in Brisbane and in Cairns. In those hearings in Cairns we are endeavouring to consult with local Indigenous groups that are interested or affected or who have views particularly in relation to egg harvesting matters.

We have also undertaken to visit Darwin and to look at their approach to managing crocodiles and to ensuring the safety of citizens in their state. We will also be talking to people who are involved in egg harvesting in the Northern Territory because it is legal and it is something that has been going on for quite a long time. We have worked our way through and we intend to report back here.

I am very concerned when members stand up and try to put pressure on a committee to work its way through these things using these sorts of tactics. Most of the things that we consider in this House are serious and dire and can have grave consequences for the people in our community. There is no doubt about that. However, that does not remove our responsibilities as legislators to work through issues carefully in a considered way. This is a serious issue, this is a serious bill and we will do that. I do not support the urgency motion.