




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Greenslopes Electorate

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.47 pm): On Sunday the Premier made a really exciting announcement in my electorate, as part of the Affordable Energy Plan—a rebate for customers who choose energy efficient appliances. The Premier is taking action on energy right now, not waiting two years like the Turnbull government. This announcement means people will have support to switch to energy efficient appliances. I know the families in my electorate will welcome this because it helps save money and is also great for the environment.

This great announcement for families and for the environment made me think about all of the many environmental achievements of the Palaszczuk government. About 20 years ago I used to walk to work in East Brisbane through an area known as Moorhen Flats. During one of these walks I met a chap who was busy planting native trees and we got talking about the area. He asked me to come back on Saturday to help with a community tree planting. My wife and I dropped down and we learned for the first time about the Norman Creek Catchment Coordinating Committee or N4C.

Last Saturday I met the same chap again. His name is Damien Madden. We met in a different location in the catchment, Bridgewater Creek. I was pleased to advise him that N4C had been successful in gaining a \$50,000 Community Sustainability Action grant. Damien was so excited about this grant. We braved the rain as he showed me the plans and proudly showed me what has already been achieved.

Damian started planting native plants to restore this section of the creek in 1984. He showed me photos from that time. At that stage the creek looked like an open drain. Now, along the same stretch of creek, there are figs, lilly pillies, lomandras and even some hoop pines. There are water dragons on the banks and shags sitting in the trees. The restored sections look healthy and are helping to reduce flooding in the local area. Damien will use the money to continue this important work for our entire community.

Over the last 20 years I have volunteered with N4C on many occasions and sometimes you wonder if you are making a difference. Damien, his photos and his passion have shown that with vision and hard work we can care for our environment. Thanks to Minister Miles and his department for making the funds available to support the vision of Damien and N4C.

I was so pleased also to meet Minister Bailey on Friday the 13th, a day of superstition for some but it was nothing but good news for the people of Greenslopes as the minister announced the next stage of the Veloway. This will take bikes over the busy intersection of Birdwood Road and Marshall Road. This will ensure a smooth, easy and safe trip for cyclists travelling from Coorparoo and Greenslopes as they head to Griffith University and beyond. It will make the choice of commuting by bike to the city that much easier for people who live in Mount Gravatt, Holland Park and Holland Park West. It is pretty simple: more people on bikes is better for the environment.

Belinda from the East BUG, or East Bicycle Users Group, took me for a tour recently and we stopped at the end of the current Veloway. She told me how important it would be to continue this project. She will be thrilled that the next stage is on the way. Of course the previous government could have done this but chose not. The last piece of Veloway infrastructure was built by—you guessed it!—a Labor government. This commitment to cycling complements the Fairer Fares program, which is getting more people in my electorate to choose public transport. Getting more people on bikes and more people on public transport are the actions of a government that is serious about caring for our environment.

Each year I encourage participation of our local community in Clean Up Australia Day. This year I joined local residents in Bowies Flat Wetland. The Coorparoo State School environment group clean up each year at Bowies Flat Wetlands. Each year students ask me, 'What can we do about plastic drink bottles and plastic bags?' Thanks to the Palaszczuk government I can now tell them that single-use bags are banned and we are introducing a drink container recycling scheme.

It is great to see so many people caring for the greenspaces in our area. Volunteer groups like the Mount Gravatt Environment Group care for existing natural habitat and work with local residents to create corridors. When they bring issues to me I listen to them. I am so proud that we have been able to save greenspaces in Nursery Road, Mount Gravatt, and Murton Avenue, Holland Park. I would like to thank Minister Jones and Minister Lynham for working with our community to preserve these important greenspaces.

On 25 May this year the Leader of the Opposition referred to people who care about the environment in my electorate as 'green guerrillas of inner Brisbane'. When I hear that sort of offensive talk I think about people like Damian, the volunteers from N4C and the Mount Gravatt Environment Group, the students from Coorparoo State School environment group and Belinda from East BUG. I reject that ridiculous label. These are people who care about our environment, who build our community through their concern for our environment. They dedicate time, expertise, money and passion to caring for our local environment. I commit myself to continuing to work with them to care for our local environment and to build our community.

(Time expired)