




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 7 March 2018

MOTION: FUEL PRICE MONITORING

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.13 pm): I oppose the motion and I support the sensible amendment put forward by the minister. It is good to see that we have been upgraded from ‘do nothing’ to ‘lazy’. This a step in the right direction, but clearly opposition members are much harder taskmasters than the people of Queensland, who returned us to government. When it comes to this motion, I was pleased to hear opposition members talk about having a plan, even if it is not a particularly good one. I wonder if any of them have recently taken out their smartphones and had a look at them. I was with a group of young folks when I heard this plan reported on the media and several of them said, ‘Why don’t they just get their phones out and use MotorMouth?’ If the members opposite took their phones out of their pockets right now, in my electorate in about 30 seconds—even if they were pretty slow—they would be able to find the cheapest fuel available, so there are already multiple opportunities out there to do that.

Presumably this motion, according to the Leader of the Opposition, is about the cost of living, so perhaps we should have a discussion about the cost of living. Let us have a look at what those opposite did when they were in government. Power prices up went by 43 per cent, flowing right across the entire economy and pushing up the cost of living. Let us talk about the sacking of 14,000 public servants. That was good for the cost of living! In my electorate my constituents are very thrilled about Fairer Fares. That is a real initiative to deal with the cost of living. Owning our electricity-generating assets has helped us deliver things like the Powering Queensland Plan, which has kept prices stable and down. Of course, there is also the Affordable Energy plan, which has resulted in energy efficient appliance rebates and support for householders and landlords to move to solar.

This motion is about a plan, so let us talk about some plans. I am sure the Minister for Housing and Public Works is rightly proud of the 10-year housing strategy. How will the GST cuts impact the ability to implement this plan? We already know what it means for Indigenous housing in remote communities, and this is shameful. Where is the Leader of the Opposition when Indigenous housing agreements are being torn up? Let us turn to health.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, I am listening very closely. I am very pleased that the amendment speaks to the Turnbull government, however, it still I think does come back to the core issue of fuel pricing.

Mr KELLY: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will happily come back to that plan if you so desire. Of course, we as a government have taken many, many steps to bring down the cost of living, as I was saying, and we intend to continue to move in that direction and we have many plans to do that. There are many plans that we are rolling out which have been put under serious jeopardy by the intended budgetary cuts we face. These things will have a direct impact on the people of Queensland. If those opposite are serious about cost-of-living issues, instead of coming in here and putting up motions that are really a plan to grab headlines, they should come in here and put up motions that really look at serious plans, as this government has done for the last three years and will continue to roll out for the next three years.

We have been taking action in the areas of education, health and jobs. All they can do on the other side is come up with plans, as I said, that are just a plan to grab headlines. I would suggest that the Leader of the Opposition develop a real plan to stand up for Queensland. Go down to Canberra, raise your voice and tell Mr Malcolm 'Scissorhands' to look elsewhere for his cuts. Those on this side of the House are proudly in here standing up for Queensland. We will continue to work to ease the cost of living for all Queenslanders as we have done for the last three years. That is why we were returned to this place with a majority government. We always back Queenslanders and we will continue to back Queenslanders.