




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Greenslopes Electorate, Transport

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.22 pm): During the last sitting week I posed a simple question to the Leader of the Opposition: does the member back our local schools or does the member back Malcolm Turnbull's GST cuts? Today I have another simple question: does the Leader of the Opposition support improving public transport or does the member support the failure of the Turnbull government to back Cross River Rail?

I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government as it is committed to public transport. The people in my electorate understand the importance of public transport. They understand its value to the economy, they understand the intrinsic health benefits that people get from using public transport and they understand its benefits to their broader environment. As a regular user of public transport I know that the people of my electorate also understand the social benefits they gain by regularly getting on a bus or train with their neighbours.

When it comes to public transport, this government has much to be proud of. I am extremely pleased that recently stage D of the Veloway was opened. The Veloway will allow cyclists to continue from O'Keefe Street through to Birdwood Road. At the same time as we opened that section of the Veloway, we announced that stage E would be built. That will take cyclists over that very dangerous Marshall Road intersection. The extension of the Veloway will get more people on bikes, it will get them to and from home safer, and it will get them to where they want to go faster. Already we are seeing more people using active transport.

The Fairer Fares initiative was welcomed by people in the electorate of Greenslopes. There has been a significant increase in the number of people using public transport. When I am out visiting public transport stops in my electorate, which I do regularly, people say to me that the Fairer Fares initiative is good policy. The Eastern TransitWay, which was promised at the last election, is also something that we should be and will be proud of. It will get people into town faster. It will improve the speed at which public transport moves along Old Cleveland Road. That will get more people onto public transport.

Cross River Rail is an important project. Everybody in my community understands its importance. Just last month we announced the companies that have been short-listed to bid for Cross River Rail. We also announced that those companies would have to source local and Queensland suppliers. The people in my electorate know that Cross River Rail will get them home faster, create jobs and be better for the environment.

It seems that the only people who do not understand Cross River Rail are the Leader of the Opposition and Malcolm Turnbull. Malcolm Turnbull seems to be too busy being on trains or buses taking selfies. He needs to get off those trains or buses, come to Queensland and understand our public transport needs. Engineering Australia understands the importance of this project. It has endorsed this project. I back public transport. Every member on this side of the House backs public transport. We need the Leader of the Opposition to go to Canberra and say to Malcolm Turnbull, 'You need to fund Cross River Rail.'