




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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Record of Proceedings, 15 June 2018

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

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.46 pm): I am not going to take a novel approach here. I am not going to talk about the Brisbane City Council budget that was brought down this week; I am going to talk about the state budget. Let's start talking about the air conditioning. We cannot get a straight answer about whether it is all schools, some schools, no school or one school. What we also cannot get a straight answer about is how it is going to be funded. No, we cannot work out whether they are going to borrow or put up taxes. I think we know how they will do it because they did it last time: they will cut services. It is hard to be a smart kid when they walk into a classroom and there is no teacher there. That is exactly what happened the last time.

Last night in this House the member for Condamine asked me and the Minister for Transport to enjoy a ride along the Veloway. I would be very pleased to have the member for Condamine join me for a ride around my electorate and we would start off on the Veloway. Before we set off I want to point out to the LNP that they cannot sit in this place carrying on about congestion and then run down Labor's programs that are aimed at dealing with this issue. We are not talking—or perhaps as the member for Hill put it so eloquently last night, we are not squawking like parrots; we are delivering. As we would set off, I would point out all those people using the cycleway. Why do those people not deserve to get home faster and safer—all those people taking cars off the road?

Then I would point out something that the member for Condamine may not be able to easily recognise: the lights that are powered by renewable energy. The LNP have just started talking about renewable energy. They do not believe in it. They do not know why we need it. They certainly have no idea how we are going to fund it, but they now seem to understand that perhaps we should talk about it. The tour will give me a chance to point out how this budget is delivering on the commitments that I have made to our community.

Let's head over to the Coorparoo Secondary College to see how I am backing our local schools. We will be refurbishing the school oval at Coorparoo Secondary College. That will allow the school to work with the Coorparoo junior Aussie Rules club to run an AFL excellence program.

Then we will head over to Whites Hill State College, where I have advocated with the school for something called a skunk worx—for those of you who do not know, that is a STEM learning centre—so we can prepare our young people for the challenges of the future. Perhaps they may give the member for Condamine a lesson or two on renewable energy. I back our local schools because the future holds many challenges, and a good education equips young people with the ability to turn challenges into opportunities.

Let us continue the tour and head back down to Camp Hill. On the way we will see where work will soon start on the Eastern Transit Way, a project that will get people in my electorate—and the electorates of Chatsworth, Capalaba and Redlands—home sooner. Perhaps on the way we will have a chat about Cross River Rail. I know that people in my electorate will be thrilled that 50 per cent of the

staff on this project will be apprentices. We might stop at a bus stop and talk to some of the constituents about that Cross River Rail project, but they will probably want to talk about Fairer Fares and how that program is saving them money on every trip. Those people will certainly understand why I am committed to improving public transport. Cross River Rail, the Veloway and the Eastern Transit Way: these projects will get you home faster, create jobs and are good for the environment.

I know that the member for Condamine has parroted the same nonsense about debt that I have heard over and over again. I encourage those members opposite to stop just picking up the notes that you have been handed; start reading the budget, start thinking for yourselves and at least make an attempt to put your own words around the budget. While we are talking about this I would try to explain to the member for Condamine that if he and his LNP colleagues are concerned about debt, they should head to Canberra and ask the Prime Minister to cough up their fair share for the infrastructure we are building. While they are not, we will continue on with the job.

I might even try and educate the member for Condamine about our current economic conditions, as it is a good time to invest in infrastructure. We are in a low interest rate environment, we have a mining boom that is coming off the boil, and it is crucial that governments reinvest in productive infrastructure. He may not want to talk about the debt to gross state product ratio and what this means for affordability of borrowing. No, it is far easier to continue the scare campaign about a very big number rather than admit that the debt to GSP ratio is lower under Labor than it ever was under the LNP.

Since we are discussing infrastructure on our ride, let us stop at the top of Camp Hill and consider the LNP and Labor's records on infrastructure. From up here we can see the only thing the LNP built: 1 William Street, a big plaything for themselves. Sorry, I take that back. They did build something else. If we turn to our left perhaps we will be able to see the Cavendish Road high school where there was a commitment to build a hall. In fact, Campbell Newman grabbed that hall and took it over to his own electorate of Ashgrove. That is a pretty pathetic record, so I am pleased that we are building that hall now at Cavendish Road. We do not see it stopping there: Cross River Rail, the Townsville stadium, Works for Queensland programs, the Veloway, Gold Coast Light Rail, and new and upgraded schools and hospitals.

In relation to infrastructure we could not be more different. When the LNP were in government last they loved opening infrastructure that was built by Labor. They loved cutting ribbons almost as much as they loved cutting Public Service jobs. We make no apology for investing in infrastructure to build our economic future. Why are we building infrastructure? To deal with our growing population, to boost business confidence—which will boost private sector economic activity—and to create safe and secure jobs. That is what I committed to at the last election: more local jobs.

Let us cycle down the hill to Vision Australia at Coorparoo, where we can meet people on a Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. That program, which is funded by our government, is helping people with no or low vision—who face a 60 per cent unemployment rate—and helping to bring that number down. They will be thrilled that we are increasing the amount of funding for Skilling Queenslanders for Work. A skilled, well-educated workforce will give our state the flexibility to respond to a rapidly changing economy. Do not take my word for it. That is what Peter Crone, the chief economist of Ernst & Young, believes.

In addition to our infrastructure and employment-boosting programs, we continue to repair the damage of the cuts of the LNP. We are employing more nurses, teachers and fireys in this budget. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition tried to portray that increasing numbers of teachers, nurses and cops is just what a government does in response to a growing population. It is just part of normal business. Well, it was not normal business when she was part of Campbell Newman's government. She sat at a cabinet table and sacked nurses, teachers, child safety workers, cops and public servants. These savage cuts damage workers, their families and the community and they destroyed small businesses, so do not come in here and pass off what this government is doing as just normal business. We are repairing the damage. This is special. We are doing it, and we are managing the budget and delivering surpluses.

Those opposite want to run a scare campaign about a very big number. Instead, they come in here with fairytales about delivering everything to everyone, but with no real plan on how to pay for it. The last time they did that they paid for it by sacking thousands and thousands of workers, wrecking community services, gagging community organisations, wrecking communities and destroying businesses and business confidence. I lived through that. At the height of the Newman era nine of my friends, who were in their forties and fifties, were unemployed. Some are just getting back on their feet. I hate to speak about this because it was only for a few months, but even as a nurse I found it difficult to find a job.

We have gone on a big tour around the electorate of Greenslopes with the member for Condamine. You can all rest assured that we are not in our lycra—we are more trackie daks guys—but we will finish the ride by congratulating the Premier and Treasurer on another surplus budget that delivers on our commitments. I will be speaking to people right across my electorate as we finish this ride—people in Holland Park, Holland Park West, Greenslopes, Camp Hill and Stones Corner. This is a budget of hope. It is a Labor budget. It is a budget that delivers on commitments to my community. We are backing our local schools; we are improving public transport; we are creating more local jobs; we are building community.