



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Greenslopes Electorate, Public Transport**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.29 pm): Malcolm Turnbull may have been jettisoned by his own party and jetted off to New York city, and Mr Scott Morrison—or ‘ScoMo’ as he likes to be called—might be out there peddling the line that we are all friends now and sitting around singing *Kum ba yah* and saying, ‘Nothing to see here,’ but the front page of Monday’s *Courier-Mail* put it all out there for everyone to see. The dysfunction continues.

On behalf of the people of the Greenslopes electorate, I would like to thank whoever it was who leaked the infrastructure plans personally approved by the former prime minister. Did he approve those projects because they were good for Queensland? Did he approve them based on expert advice? Was there a panel of people who said, ‘This is what we should do’? Did he approve them after serious lobbying by the Leader of the Opposition in Queensland? No, absolutely not. He approved them because he wanted to sandbag seats in Queensland. He approved them based on the internal needs of the federal LNP. Of course, he intended to give a lot more money to other states. No doubt the cheer squad opposite would have had sore hands from applauding that.

I want to take a few moments to speak about public transport initiatives in my electorate, particularly those funded in this year’s budget: the Eastern Transitway and the upgrade of the electronic ticketing system. These projects are important. They add to other projects and initiatives such as Fairer Fares and the Veloway extension. All will result in people getting home faster and safer. All will result in savings to my constituents. When we save people time and money, we improve their quality of life. That is why we do these things. The Palaszczuk government cares about people. We want people to have time to spend with their families, time to volunteer at their local P&Cs and sporting groups, time to get some exercise, time to build community. People in my electorate tell me how valuable their time is and how much they appreciate our efforts to improve public transport.

In this year’s budget we funded the first stage of the Eastern Transitway to the tune of \$1.8 million, out of a more than \$20 million project. The member for Chatsworth jumped in the local media saying that we were short-changing the people of Greenslopes. I am no project manager, but let’s go through some of the basics of how this works. When you are starting a project, particularly one that is worth over \$20 million, you start by developing a plan. That process is going to be expensive and extensive. If the opposition spokesperson on transport and main roads does not understand that you start projects with a planning phase, then perhaps we can see why he will have a long future as the opposition spokesperson. I know that the member would not really understand this, because he was part of the Newman government, and it really did not do infrastructure—just one nice, big building for themselves but certainly nothing in the public transport infrastructure space.

**Mr de Brenni:** They don’t like transport projects.

**Mr KELLY:** That is right. The Eastern Transitway project will get people home faster. I was pleased to see in the budget funding allocated for the development of the next phase of the electronic ticketing system. I know that people in my electorate will be thrilled to see improvements in this area. As with the Fairer Fares initiative, we will see more people using public transport. In fact, I was discussing this just yesterday with the minister and he proudly told me that public transport usage is up by five per cent for the January-March quarter. That is a significant increase. He was rightly proud of that.

I have spoken before about the Veloway. I am still waiting for the member for Condamine to come on that ride with me. This project demonstrates the commitment of the Palaszczuk government to active transport. It is a major piece of infrastructure that will get more people on to bikes. Why? It is because they get home faster and they get home safer.

I could not continue this speech without talking about Cross River Rail, a project that will transform our state. It is sad to see that those opposite do not understand this project. They are certainly not down in Canberra advocating to the new Prime Minister to get this project funded. No doubt they will be content to sit back and let him work out which projects he will fund based on the internal needs of the federal LNP.

People in the electorate of Greenslopes support Cross River Rail. They understand that it will get people home faster, will be good for the environment and will create jobs. I am proud to be part of a government that is investing in public and active transport. People in my electorate understand why this is important. They know that this investment will improve quality of life for millions of Queenslanders right across this state. That is why they support the Palaszczuk government and public and active transport.