




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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**WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (WASTE LEVY) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.56 pm): There are many reasons to support this bill. Perhaps the first reason is that it is another step in unravelling the destructive legacy of the Newman government. I thought that, after four years, I would get tired of being part of a government that unravels a destructive legacy, but I am enjoying it even more. Perhaps even more importantly, I am proud to be part of a government that has committed to jobs as its No. 1 priority. We know that recycling creates three times the number of jobs than dumping waste in landfill. We know that this change will be implemented without direct impacts on the community.

As a proud Queensland, I think that we should all stand in this place and be proud that we are stopping businesses and people from interstate using our state as a dumping ground, using our state to avoid the efforts of their own states to create a recycling culture. I support this bill because, for Queenslanders, it will be an avoidable levy, but it will require a change.

Those of us who took the time to go to the UQ Future conversation this morning were told that we have to look at all means of decarbonisation and that includes going down the recycling path. During the presentation I laughed because one of the presenters said, 'There is no argument anymore among right-minded people about climate change and what is causing it.' I thought that that presenter needs to come into this place for a few moments, because there are plenty of arguments in this place about that. Plenty of those opposite do not support or believe in climate change.

This bill asks fundamental questions. What type of society do we want to be? Do we want to be a society that continues to use resources with no care for the future, or even the present? Do we want to be a society that ignores the evidence and continues to use and discard resources as though they are unlimited? Do we want to be part of a society that refuses to change, because that change might be hard, or that we might have to learn to do things, or just because we do not like change?

The people of the electorate of Greenslopes have answered those questions with action. They support these changes and they are prepared to make the changes. They make them every day in big and small ways. They join in on Clean Up Australia Day. They pack plastic-free lunches for their kids to take to school. They are putting in solar panels. They are supporting and using public transport. They are stepping forward to make the container deposit scheme a success. Let us look at the figures: 102 million containers recycled; \$15 million back into the community; and 500 jobs created. The plastic bag ban has been a success, with an 80 per cent reduction.

Debate, on motion of Mr Kelly, adjourned.