




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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### **FISHERIES (SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES STRATEGY) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.17 pm): ‘Guten Tag!’ That is good afternoon in German, the language of my nana’s family and community at the time of her birth in Marburg just west of Ipswich but lost to our family and the broader community during the upheaval of World War I. I am pleased my daughter is studying German at Cavendish Road State High School and taught me how to say that this morning.

‘Galab Wanaagsan!’ That is good afternoon in Somali, the language of many good people of Holland Park who work hard to preserve their wonderful culture and language. ‘Buenas dias a todos los parlamentarios. Espanol no es mi lengua materna, pero es un lenguaje que me gusta mucho y trato de hablar cuando me encuentro personas de America latina en Greenslopes. Hay muchas personas in Greenslopes que hablan espanol.’

I would like to thank the minister for encouraging people to think about language. Language is powerful in so many ways and I commend the efforts of the Indigenous people of this land who continue their quest to maintain and re-establish their languages.

Turning to the bill, I support the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018. While the Greenslopes electorate is not bounded by sea it has its fair share of recreational fishers, conservationists, traditional owners and seafood business that have a direct interest in the health and sustainability of our fisheries. In fact, all Queenslanders have an interest in our fisheries, one of the most economically valuable and ecologically diverse natural resources that our state possesses.

Queenslanders expect that the laws, rules and regulations that govern the edges of everyday life should be contemporary, responsive and fit for purpose. That expectation is reasonable and common to voters and residents from right across this state. Those same voters should have reasonable confidence that their elected representatives and departmental officers have the powers and funding that they need to do the job that they are employed to do, which is to promote the public interest. That is the case in all areas of public administration, whether for those in my previous profession as a nurse in the public health system in Brisbane, a teacher aide in Proserpine or an officer on a Boating and Fisheries Patrol boat on the waters off Coolangatta. When legislation starts to fall behind or no longer meets the needs of the public, there is a need to reform it to better serve the public.

Fisheries is one of the areas where reform is needed to keep our legislation up to date and up to the challenges of managing a prominent public resource. Successive Queensland governments have recognised the need to reform Queensland’s fisheries management system. I have certainly followed the journey of this legislation from my time as the chair of the agriculture committee. I also followed some of the earlier consultation that went on. I am proud to be part of a government that is addressing these issues and reforming our administration and decision-making systems to meet the needs of the Queensland public, now and into the future.

The amendments in the bill will modernise fisheries management in Queensland and give effect to the government's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-27, which was developed by the government following extensive consultation. I was involved in the early phases of that in my role as the chair of the agriculture committee. I commend the minister for continuing that work.

The fisheries strategy is an important demonstration of how our Palaszczuk government works, in contrast to the Newman LNP government which did not listen. It is a strategy based on evidence, following a long pattern of bandaid solutions, temporary fixes and abandoned reform efforts that mean our fisheries system is not well regulated or as informed by evidence as Queenslanders would expect. As a health professional, I value evidence very highly and base my practice on it. I expect that is the same in any other area of professional life. The fisheries strategy incorporates goals and objectives that reflect wider government and public interests, particularly around the health and sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef, as well as regional economic development and environmental conservation. Those are all interests that the people of the Greenslopes electorate have a strong interest in. On many issues my community's default outlook is to act locally and to think globally.

Critically, this bill is part of a strategy that is appropriately funded. Our government has put \$20 million worth of funding into the strategy. It was one of our key budget commitments. How we have spent that money is a reflection of our priorities and values as a government. Those values are echoed in the provisions and intent of the bill. We have spent money on scientific monitoring, so that we have better data and a better understanding of our marine resources and stock levels. We have spent money on improving engagement with fishers of all stripes, including running extensive consultation processes to develop harvest strategies that will manage our priority fisheries in the future. We have spent money on rebates for vessel tracking devices, helping mitigate the cost of change for private operators who derive a profit and living from our public resources.

The laws we are debating today complement those initiatives. They ramp up fines to deter black marketeers, complementing our investment in additional enforcement. They support legitimate operators in their businesses and formally recognise our first Australians as a legitimate interest holder in fisheries management for the first time.

The \$3 million funding for this initiative was leveraged off investments from our government and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. This emphasis on cooperation, evidence gathering and prospective decision-making is what good government is all about. The wing-and-a-prayer approach adopted by the LNP is not good enough to manage our fisheries resources and it is not good enough for the expectations of Queenslanders, particularly those in the electorate of Greenslopes. I commend the bill to the House.