




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 6 February 2020

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Greenslopes Electorate, School Infrastructure

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.45 pm): Tomorrow is a really important day in the electorate of Greenslopes. We will be opening the new hall at Cavendish Road State High School. I can think of no two better people to have beside me at the moment than the former education minister, who was responsible for kicking this off, and the former principal of Cavendish Road State High School.

This hall is symbolic of the vast difference in the approach to education of the Palaszczuk Labor government to that of the rotten Newman government which we got rid of. They shut schools and they sacked teachers. What do we do? Last week we opened eight new schools and we have five more on the way next year. We have restored all those cut teachers. We have put a teacher aide into every prep classroom. We have increased the number of guidance officers. This hall symbolises all of that. The hall is important too because it symbolises the sort of person Campbell Newman was. This hall was promised to Greenslopes but the funding was taken away to build a hall in his own electorate. The previous member did not deserve that. The school community did not deserve that.

If this were the only piece of infrastructure that we were building and opening in my electorate, I would not be wasting the time of the House. The reality is that we have built infrastructure in so many government and non-government schools in my electorate. We have built new ovals at Coorparoo Secondary College and Nursery Road State Special School, which was particularly important for the former education minister. We have built new and refurbished classrooms at Coorparoo State School, Greenslopes State School, Holland Park State School and Nursery Road State Special School. We have built an outdoor learning centre at Seville Road State School and a new STEM centre of excellence at the great Whites Hill State School. Solar panels have been installed at Marshall Road State School and the Brisbane School of Distance Education. The list goes on and on. Trust me: I have a list that I am going to keep going on about with the Treasurer so we continue to invest in our schools.

If we want great schools, we have to invest in the people and then we have to invest in the infrastructure. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing. When I was elected I made a commitment to the people of Greenslopes that I would build community. The best way to start building community is to back one's local schools. They are the places where we turn out the leaders of tomorrow—the people who will build our community tomorrow. We have to make sure we have great and well-supported teachers and good, modern facilities for those people to work in.

I am pleased to be part of a government that recognises that and is backing local members like me to deliver things like this. The reality is that if we are going to build community then we have to back our local schools. What will happen is that life will be better for everybody who lives in my community. I back local schools and I build community, and I am glad to be part of a government that does it.