




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 4 December 2020

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (2020-2021) BILL

APPROPRIATION (2020-2021) BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.18 pm): What an absolute pleasure it is to deliver my reply to the budget after the Premier. She has kept Queenslanders safe and she is leading the recovery. I support the appropriation bills. The terms ‘arrogance’ and ‘hubris’ have been tossed around by those opposite this week liberally, mostly in relation to the Treasurer. It takes a special level of arrogance and hubris to cop a flogging at the election like those opposite copped and walk into this chamber and start to lecture those on the other side. We saw peak arrogance in this chamber yesterday in a move that would make Kim Jong-il proud.

The member for Everton raised a statue to himself on behalf of his adoring constituents—peak arrogance and hubris. It takes an extra-special level of arrogance to walk into this place and disregard the votes and the wishes of the Queensland people, but we have heard that over and over and over again. We have been told that the people were scared into voting for Labor, that they were duped into voting for Labor. I can tell those opposite that they are going to spend a lot of time on that side of the House if they tell the voters of this great state that they were stupid, scared or duped into voting for Labor. Do not use the words ‘scare campaign’ in relation to a global pandemic.

Yesterday I spoke in this place of the more than 1,500 nurses who have died since the start of this global pandemic. Go and tell the families of those 1,500 nurses that there is a scare campaign going on! There is a very serious global pandemic going on. It is killing a lot of health workers. I am so thankful to be part of a state led by a Premier who is smart enough to listen to the advice of the Chief Health Officer. I suggest, along the lines that the Premier used, that those opposite put the crystal ball down, walk into the big hall of mirrors and start by taking a very good look at themselves. They should do that before they start lecturing people on this side of the House.

I would say a really good place to start would be to look at the shiny new promises of the new Bradfield scheme and the spangly, diamond-coated Bruce Highway that was put before the people of Queensland. They like to throw around the accusation of ‘Labor’s con job’, but the people of Queensland worked out who the true con artists are, and it is those opposite. The people of Queensland found them out and said, ‘You are the con artists.’ When push came to shove and we finally got some details on these spangly, shiny new promises what did we find out? These were their signature things; it is all they talked about in Greenslopes because people really care about the new Bradfield scheme in Greenslopes! These were their most important promises, and guess what? Were they going to do it in the first budget, when we finally pushed them and said, ‘Let’s get some details’? No! What about the first hundred days? Were they going to do it in the first hundred days? No, definitely not in the first hundred days. Were they going to do it in the first year? We might think that if it was so important, they would do it in the first year. No, no, no! No, the people of Queensland had to wait a mere 5,475 days until those promises would be delivered—15 years! Seriously, we cannot make this stuff up.

Let us consider what it would have meant if those opposite had been elected. My eldest daughter is 15. She would have been voting in her fourth election before there was a dam scraped or a road built. The member for Bonney and the member for Gaven probably would have been in hot competition with one another to be the longest-serving members of this House, and I can guarantee the member for Bonney would still be on that side of the House. I will finally be able to sing a song that I like and I would be able to sing it knowing it is literally true. I would be able to sing—

Will you still need me, will you still feed me

When I'm sixty-four?

I could sing that and it would be true before any of these roads are built. Perhaps they sought advice from the new Leader of the Opposition about the timetable. He suggested that they should take a slower pace. Can I say 15 years is a very slow pace.

It has been said that to win an election you need to win the economic argument. Keeping Queenslanders safe and leading the recovery—these are the things we offered to the people of Queensland and these won the economic argument in the minds of the people of Queensland. When he was health minister, the Deputy Premier correctly said that the first economic response to COVID-19 is the health response. That is what we did, and the numbers speak for themselves. We are getting the health response right. What did those opposite offer? They called for the borders to be opened 64 times and they joined their voices with some of the most renowned public health experts around, Alan Jones, Pauline Hanson and Clive Palmer. Sadly, it seems the Greens political party has now joined the chorus of people questioning the advice of the Chief Health Officer.

I will work with the Premier and I will work with the people in my electorate to continue to keep Queenslanders safe. This budget is all about recovering from COVID-19. I see this every single day in my electorate: investments in job-creating infrastructure, in schools, public housing, sporting facilities, cycling infrastructure, investments in skills and development and training, backing our small businesses. He often refers to himself as 'Furner the Farmer's Friend', and many people call him that. He has made Labor the farmer's friend. Now it is time for Farmer; she is going to make Labor the 'Small Business Owner's Friend' because everywhere I go around this state I meet small business people who are so thankful for the actions we have taken during this COVID-19 period to save their businesses.

Around this state we are investing in strengthening and expanding existing industries like agriculture and mining; we are diversifying our economy into areas like renewable energy, film and television, hydrogen and advanced manufacturing. All of those things, combined with our investment in infrastructure that is improving and creating roads, hospitals, schools, training facilities, sporting facilities, tourism facilities—all of those things create jobs. How are we doing this? There is no secret. We are borrowing, just like every single sensible government around the world. I reject the notion put forward by the member for Callide, the member for Scenic Rim and the member for Toowoomba North—there were quite a few who put it forward—that the investments we are making do not boost productivity. I would suggest people pick up the capital statement and start at page 8 and read. What they will find is productivity-boosting infrastructure investments.

The LNP needs to come clean. They need to stop the con job that they started during the election period. I could not work out whether they were running for election or writing a stand-up routine for the UQ economics club. They were out there saying to people, 'We're going to have a surplus. We're not going to increase or create taxes. We're not going to sack any workers. We're not going to cut any services and we're not going to borrow any money.' Seriously, how do they pull that together? When we finally dug into their signature promises we found out that the only way they were going to be able to do it was to not do it for at least 15 years.

We are taking action right now to keep Queenslanders safe and to lead the recovery. The Premier, the Treasurer, every minister and every single member on this side of the House are focused on keeping Queenslanders safe and on leading the recovery. That is what this budget is all about and that is why I support it.