



Speech By  
**Bart Mellish**


**MEMBER FOR ASPLEY**

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Record of Proceedings, 23 March 2021

## ADJOURNMENT

### Aspley Electorate

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (7.29 pm): ABS data recently released shows that Queensland was responsible for more than 60 per cent of all full-time jobs created in Australia in February. We lead the nation in replacing the jobs lost during the COVID-19 pandemic. Last month we generated six times as many full-time jobs as New South Wales and four times as many as Victoria.

As we heard this morning from the Treasurer, total hours worked have increased to levels higher than pre-pandemic, but we know that sadly for many Queenslanders they are entering an uncertain period from this Sunday because this Sunday is D-Day for JobKeeper. We have seen the announcement of cheap flights from the federal government, which was welcome for Cairns being part of the initial announcement, but then they hastily had to add more locations. Townsville was lucky to make the list, but other areas like Hervey Bay have not been so lucky. The federal government needs to closely monitor the rollout to see if more needs to be done.

Since Queensland was first impacted by COVID-19, the Palaszczuk government has taken a sensible and strategic approach to combatting the global economic headwinds caused by the pandemic. Locally, in Aspley, our plan for economic recovery means that Aspley locals will benefit from upgraded roads and world-class infrastructure projects. Just last week, I met with Craigslea State High School staff and representatives from the sport and education departments to get the ball rolling on the brand new \$10 million volleyball centre of excellence. The new centre will cement Craigslea as the best volleyball school in Queensland and will establish the north side as a hub for volleyball development. I cannot wait to see some current Craigslea students in one of the 2032 Olympic teams, which will hopefully be in Brisbane.

Over at Aspley State High School, construction is well underway on the \$16 million sports hall and performing arts precinct—a project that will give a real lift to the whole Zillmere, Aspley and Carseldine area. The school community have done well. They have pursued this for many years. It is really great to see it come out of the ground. I am really proud of the sporting triangle we have made in this area. Between the Northside Indoor Sports Centre in Zillmere, Aspley State High School and the Carseldine sports precinct, we have great new facilities which have all been delivered or are being delivered since 2017.

Our plan for economic recovery will also mean safer roads in Aspley. Plans for the Beams Road overpass are in the final stages of development, while construction is already underway on stage 1 of this project—upgrading the Carseldine park-and-ride in the member for Sandgate's electorate. We have \$5 million for noise barriers in Bald Hills. I am really pleased that this election commitment is being rolled out. At my latest mobile offices in Bald Hills on Saturday, locals were very pleased to hear of this commitment, and I look forward to seeing it over the next few months as we progress the planning work. The LNP talked big on noise barriers, but they did not stump up a single dollar during the campaign. Let us not forget when they were last in government they actually scrapped already planned and scheduled noise barrier projects in the Aspley electorate.

Also in Bald Hills it is great to see that we are very close to seeing work commence on the diverging diamond interchange on the intersection of Gympie Arterial Road and Strathpine Road—

**Mr Hinchliffe:** And Hoyland Street.

**Mr MELLISH:** Or Hoyland Street if you live in the member for Sandgate's electorate. This innovative and exciting project will relieve traffic congestion on Strathpine Road in particular. A diverging diamond interchange is cost-effective to construct and it has less impact on local residents compared to a traditional interchange because it requires a smaller footprint.