




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 25 February 2021

PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.54 pm): It is a great week. The vaccine for COVID is finally rolling out. That is thanks to the fine leadership of the Premier and the Chief Health Officer. As I have said in this House several times this week, we are living through a modern healthcare miracle—just over a year from identifying a disease to having an effective vaccine for that disease. It gives us the possibility of light at the end of the tunnel.

Now we can rightly start to turn our attention to our recovery from COVID-19. We on this side of the House have always been mindful of this, but it is something that we can now put more attention into. In the last few days the Treasurer has spoken about the fact that we now have more jobs in Queensland than there were in January 2020. We are the only state that has more jobs now than it had before the pandemic.

When I look around our community I see how we are achieving this recovery. Firstly, we are backing small businesses. There are 160 or so small business adaptation grants that have been rolled out in our community. They kept small businesses viable. I worked with local businesses to run the takeaway message campaign. We encouraged people to eat takeaway food during the lockdown.

Ms Boyd: It was great. I partook.

Mr KELLY: Good on you. It helped those businesses stay viable. Guess what? By taking that action we kept those businesses viable. That is why there were so many small businesses at Minister Farmer's small business roadshow that I went to. There were many businesses there wanting to learn more about how the government can benefit them.

The other thing we are doing in the local area is investing in infrastructure. I was at Whites Hill State College the other day for their badge ceremony and saw that work has started on the new outdoor learning centre. That is a fantastic project. It is one of six projects that are rolling out in my community. So many schools in our communities are getting infrastructure.

The mighty East Tigers are undergoing a redevelopment thanks to \$1 million in support from the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is creating jobs. It is creating better community infrastructure. It will also be a boost for small businesses in Stones Corner and Coorparoo. It is going to start this year just ahead of when we hit the peak for vaccination.

These are just a couple of ways that we are uniting and recovering from COVID-19. We are backing small business and we are investing in infrastructure. We are improving local schools and we are improving sporting clubs. That is how you unite and recover. You build your community and create jobs. These are the things that the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing. We are turning our mind to the recovery. We are focused on creating the jobs that are needed in our community. This is how we recover from COVID-19. This is COVID recovery.