




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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Record of Proceedings, 10 March 2021

### **WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (PLASTIC ITEMS) AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.21 pm): I support the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. I think that is the 12th time I have heard that speech. I make this appeal to the LNP speech writers: please have an A and B version or an A, B and C version so that I do not have to hear the exact same—

**Ms Farmer:** Or at least personalise it.

**Mr KELLY:** Personalise it. Maybe we would hear at some point in the speech someone forget the part where it says 'insert personal story here' and that would get read out. That is the 12th time I have heard the same things said.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr KELLY:** I say to the member for Chatsworth that normally I come in here and talk about the fact that the LNP say, 'We are going to do this. We are going to do that. We are going to do the other,' but now I think the LNP have a new one, 'We were going to do it.'

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr KELLY:** To do that, member for Chatsworth, you actually have to convince the people of Queensland that you are capable of governing, can be trusted to govern and will deliver on your commitments. That is what those on this side of the House have done. That is why we get the opportunity to come in here and introduce the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill.

I spoke on the previous bill in relation to this matter. I happened to be the chair of the agriculture committee that reviewed that legislation. I acknowledge the great work of the chair and committee members of the former committee that considered this bill. This bill is dealing with a problem of our own creation. When we created plastic it was an amazing invention, but the very things that make plastic amazing also make it very difficult to deal with. Its durability has made it extremely difficult to deal with. It is useful in many forms, but unfortunately it does not break down and stays with us forever.

When we introduced the first round of plastic bans I felt that that would be the first iteration of many plastic bans. I am so pleased that this bill allows the minister to add additional items to the list of things that need to be banned. The bill is clearly supported in my community. In fact, I would go beyond that. I would say that the community is not supporting this bill but demanding this bill. They are wanting these actions that we are taking.

On Clean Up Australia Day I went up to the Mount Gravatt lookout to start the day. It was great to see the folks from the Mount Gravatt Environment Group up there. They sent me down a path to do some cleaning up. I was with some kids from the Victor Scouts group. We had a pretty boring day because there was nothing to pick up. It was great up there. It was great to have so little to pick up. The last time I did Clean Up Australia Day up there there was quite a bit of rubbish. I was talking to the

amazing Mike Fox from the Mount Gravatt Environment Group and he said that the first year they did it they picked up something like 65 bags of rubbish. This year they were lucky to pick up 10. That is an incredible outcome.

I then went down and saw the good folks of the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh community who had taken it upon themselves to clean up Seville Park in Holland Park. They go there every Sunday morning for their cultural activities and felt that it would be great for them to take part in Clean Up Australia Day. Again, there was not much rubbish to pick up.

Then I headed over to Coorparoo common. There was a young couple there, Ryan and Amanda, who had organised a local community clean-up. I went with a family from Loretto and we worked our way along the riverbank. We got to a spot that I had cleaned up about four years ago. The last time I was there I would have picked up in an hour and a half about 120 to 150 containers, cans, bottles and lots of single-use plastic bags. I am really pleased to report that this time I picked up about four cans and bottles and zero plastic bags. If that is not testament to the fact that the legislation passed previously is working, I do not know what is.

It is not all good news because there were countless other smaller plastic items of a whole variety, many of which feature in the bill we are debating today. We are going to remove these additional types of plastics. I am hoping that next time I go back to Coorparoo common and that section of the creek that there will a lot fewer plastics there.

I am pleased about the provisions in the bill that have allowances for people with disability or people who are requiring care, particularly because of age. I have worked as a nurse in both the disability care sector and the aged-care sector so I know that we certainly need to have those tools available to us as healthcare professionals.

I think the member for Glass House might have said at one point that we got rid of plastic bags and the sky has not fallen in. That is exactly what we are expecting this time around. One thing that has happened with this is that it has created jobs. I am seeing those jobs created in Coorparoo. We have a new container recycling scheme depot starting up in our area. They are advertising in the community. They are looking for workers. It is great to see those jobs being created in my community. People want to be able to recycle closer to home. These are the sorts of jobs we need as we recover from COVID. It is good to see that we will be creating even more jobs. We have to make it easier for people to make the choices they want to make. That is what this bill is doing.

We are doing good things for the environment. We realise that we do not have to make a choice between the environment and jobs. We can have both. We are doing a great thing by creating the jobs we need for the COVID recovery. I commend the bill to the House.