




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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**ADDRESS-IN-REPLY**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.14 pm), continuing: I would like to start by congratulating the Premier on leading a great campaign and, more importantly, leading the state safely through COVID. Congratulations to all the ministers and all the members on this side of the House on their re-election. I look forward to working with them all over the coming term. I would also like to congratulate all MPs who have been elected to this place. I would like to congratulate the Speaker and I am deeply honoured to be elected to serve as the Deputy Speaker. In my last address-in-reply speech, I spoke about the need for true reconciliation. The thoughts I shared then remain true. I am thrilled that as a state we are on a path to treaty. This is a real step forward.

When I went to the people in Greenslopes, I asked them to give me the opportunity to be their representative in the Palaszczuk Labor government and I promised I would focus on building community, and I have spent every day since working on building community—supporting local community groups, backing local businesses and listening to people in our local community. In all of these interactions, I always encourage people to look for ways to build community. I try to connect good people and when I do, good things happen.

In 2020 our community was tested in ways we could not necessarily have anticipated. We saw the impacts overseas of high numbers of deaths and health systems overwhelmed. Thankfully, these have been avoided here but we have felt the sting of job losses and we have seen small businesses and community groups under pressure. I am really pleased to say that the people of the electorate of Greenslopes rose to the challenge. Good people from community groups, small businesses and just local leaders came together to contact and maintain the safety of people aged over 65 in our community. People from groups like Greenslopes Neighbourhood Watch, Victor Scouts, Faith Works and Lavelle Hair and leaders like Braam Du Toit came together and attempted to contact everyone over the age of 65. They provided much help and support during that process. Our local Meals on Wheels had to stand down most of its volunteers over the age of 60. We put a call-out via social media and our community networks, and within a week the Meals on Wheels were turning away volunteers.

As the lockdown started to bite, I took an idea to local restaurants and cafes that we run a social media campaign called #thetakeawaymessage to encourage people to buy takeaway food on a particular day. I am pleased that over 40 businesses jumped on board. Even better, local community members like Wayne Hankinson and Catherine Stirling used their social media to spread the message as well. We worked hard and that work paid off. Marco from Ninebar + Kitchen in Coorparoo said to me that he was able to bring back one staff part-time due to the increased customers.

At the last election, I promised to work with the Premier to keep Queenslanders safe and to lead the recovery. We have kept Queenslanders safe by listening to the experts and taking their advice, even when that was difficult. We have kept small businesses viable, particularly through the use of the small business adaptation grants, and we have ensured community groups can continue to offer their services. We saw Stepping Stone Clubhouse, a mental health service, struggling. They have been granted another million dollars to support their ongoing work.

While COVID-19 and the pandemic is far from over and we have to remain ever vigilant, the mind of this government turns to recovery. When we talk recovery, we talk jobs. It is our No. 1 priority. In my electorate I do not have to go far to see the plans of the Palaszczuk Labor government coming into action. Schools in our area are a major source of infrastructure investment. Whites Hill State College, Mount Gravatt State High School, Nursery Road State Special School and Holland Park State School are the latest schools that are benefitting from infrastructure investment. This is creating not just better facilities for our schools in terms of classrooms, playgrounds, sporting fields and security but also jobs. We have also invested in sporting facilities, with Easts Tigers receiving a million dollars to upgrade their facilities. That will be great for Easts, great for sport and great for Stones Corner and Coorparoo business areas. I notice the transport minister nodding along. I am pleased to say that we also invest in public transport. I am extremely pleased that we are continuing the good work of the Veloway. The O'Keefe Street overpass is something I took to the election and I am glad we are delivering on that.

**Mr Bailey:** Hear, hear! It's going to be great.

**Mr KELLY:** It will be great. We continue to back small businesses. Businesses like VMP and Variety Living were able to take advantage of the Small Business Adaptation Grant and remain viable and keep people employed. We have also invested in skills and training. We extended the free TAFE and apprenticeships and that has been very popular. We know there are people who have had to change course during this pandemic. We know there are young people who have had challenges getting a start. By investing in skills and training, we are getting those people a good start.

We are expanding our economy. We have put a lot of work into manufacturing—Rheinmetall being one of the great success stories—but also our energy future; we have changed the story there. We are building on our investment in solar and wind. We know that hydrogen is going to play a big part in the future. Not only is it changing the way we generate energy, which is good for the environment, but it has also been good for creating jobs. We continue our good work in developing a pipeline of work in the film and television industry, and the Olympics is really exciting not just for my community but for the whole of Queensland, providing a 20-year confidence boost.

Finally, there is targeted assistance. We know there are certain industries that are doing it tough, tourism being one in particular. I keep meeting people in my electorate who have taken advantage of those tourism dollars and are out there supporting local tourism businesses. I know that is happening in Cairns and in the Whitsunday. This is COVID recovery. This is what it looks like: infrastructure investment, backing small businesses, providing skills and training, expanding our economy and providing targeted assistance. This is COVID recovery.

I do want to turn my attention to our opponents at the election. I would like to acknowledge all of them who stepped forward except for One Nation. They deserve no praise or acknowledgement whatsoever. It was a cynical paper exercise to generate some money. Their candidate did not show up, did not put up a placard and did not have a Facebook presence. In fact, you could not even find a phone number for them. It was a complete waste of time.

I would like to acknowledge Andrew Newbold and the LNP team for running a good campaign. I would particularly like to acknowledge two of their volunteers, Don and Lila Cameron. Even though they work every single election to get me unelected, we could not deny that they are long servants of democracy. I acknowledge the IMOP candidate, Jazzy Melhop; however, I utterly and totally reject the anti-vaccination message that she carried in all of its forms.

I acknowledge that the Greens ran a good campaign, but I also would like to acknowledge that they ran around the electorate once again lying to people. They told people that they had 40 per cent of the vote secured. As we saw on election day, that was nothing but a total fabrication. Any right-thinking person who analysed their policies would have shuddered: free everything for everyone, but to pay for this we are going to quadruple the taxes on an industry we are going to shut down. There is a certain lack of logic in that. Beyond that, if you looked at their policies they would do two things: destroy jobs and push up the cost of housing for young people. They are not going to get there; they are not going to get anywhere near their 40 per cent while they are lying to people and while their policies destroy jobs and push up housing costs.

As we would all know, no-one gets elected to this place without a lot of help. I would like to thank a whole range of people. My day starts and finishes with my family. I would like to thank my wife, Susan Adams, and my wonderful daughters, Molly and Brenna. As we would all know in this place, they sacrifice a lot of time for us to be here. It is particularly pleasing that my daughters are now old enough to put on a red shirt and help out with handing out how-to-vote cards. That will remain one of my favourite photos of all time, the six o'clock photo near the Greenslopes Baptist Church at the end of a long day.

I would like to thank my mother-in-law, Nola Adams. She was my No. 1 cheer squad in the Coorparoo village. I am sure she locked in a lot of those seniors' votes for me, so thank you, Nola. My mum, Pat Kelly, followed the campaign closely and no doubt was constantly on the blower to God via the prayer system from Coolum Waters nursing home.

My campaign manager is just an amazing person—first campaign that she has managed—Alicia Weiderman. She did a terrific job. She runs a fantastic consulting business. I think wherever she chooses to go in life she will get there. I certainly would not have had the opportunity to come here a third time without her guidance, support, strategic thinking and utter commitment to hard work. It was amazing.

My former campaign manager, Matt Campbell, continued to provide guidance and assistance. He works across four or five campaigns now providing help in a whole range of ways. His first love has always been Greenslopes and helping to get me re-elected, so I would like to thank Matt for not just what he does for me in terms of helping me get re-elected but also the work he does in our community. Volunteering for so many organisations is amazing.

My electorate staff, Brooke Wilson and Jordan Ayton, are two amazing people. They have both grown up in our community. They are both wonderful people. They work hard all the time. They just help people in myriad ways. I think that is why whenever I am out doorknocking or at mobile offices or community events I get nothing but great feedback for them. I know that working in an electorate office, they have to make a lot of sacrifices. We all know how hard our electorate staff work.

I would like to thank Eddie Uzelin, who did a great job of supporting me with my doorknocking. It was never too much for him to come out. No matter how hot it was, no matter how hard it was, no matter how high the hills were—and we do have a few hills in Greenslopes—he was out there doorknocking away with me.

There are so many branch members who stepped forward to help. Karl Birnie, Trish Ryan, Daryl Sparkes, Derek Wood, Christine Anderson, Heather Abramson, Tina Donaghy, Mick Fraser, Jimmy Loftus and Peter Kington all stepped forward and there were many, many more. There were some new people who came along to help as well and I would like to acknowledge them. Callun Lavis, Jaydeen Steers, Claudia Meza, Craig Minns and Carmel Baillie all stepped forward.

There were a couple of branch members who, for the first time, could not help on a campaign and I would like to acknowledge them. Age robbed them of what the LNP never could and that was a desire and an ability to get out there and campaign for Labor. Ray Smith, Ian McLennan, Brian Merrin, Peggy Duke and Brian and Mary Dutton sent me well wishes. They all sent me a few dollars. They would have been out there if age had allowed that. I do thank them for their ongoing support.

I also want to note the sad departure and the passing of a couple of really dear, good friends and hardworking true believing Labor people, and they are Hazel Smith and Dennis Cross. Dennis, in fact, was working right up until the last election and only recently deteriorated due to his cancer. Hazel would have been out there but for the Parkinson's disease. As an aside, if anybody ever wondered whatever happened to the ute from 'ute-gate', it ended up with Dennis Cross. He has a piece of Australian political history. He is terrific bloke.

I would like to thank all of my extended family, and there are a lot. They all helped out in various ways. I particularly want to thank my brother, Peter, who not only is a great delegate for the SDA but is always willing to come down and help with letterboxing, street stalls and pre-poll. Thanks to my brother, Pete. It would be remiss of me not to thank my sister, Angie, for stepping forward to have a go in the seat of Whitsunday. She got the call-up late. Yes, it is a shame. While I am sad she did not get the opportunity to be here, I know that the families and the students at Cannonvale State School will be extremely pleased to have their principal back. She is a great principal and a great person. Wherever she chooses to apply herself in life, she will make a huge difference. I hope she does think about stepping forward somewhere in politics because she has a lot to offer.

I have several friends I would like to acknowledge. Joseba Larrazabal, Mark Wockner, Mark Kondos, Ben Keenan, Tony Brown, Sagie Pillai and Damian Power all helped me out in ways large and small. I would also like to acknowledge a really good friend of mine, Lisa O'Donnell, who stepped forward in the seat of Chatsworth. She ran a great campaign. She did not get there. It was such a good campaign, I think she almost gave the member for Chatsworth a couple of grey hairs.

I would like to thank the people who donated to my campaign, particularly Crichton McIntyre, a good friend, Don Todman, Peter Stirk and many others. I have never made a secret of my involvement or support for the great Australian trade union movement. I would like to thank the members of all of the unions but particularly the Transport Workers Union, the Australian Workers' Union, the plumbers union, the SDA and, of course, my union, the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union.

I acknowledge and thank Jules Campbell and all of the paid staff and volunteers at party office. They help us out in ways that we do not really see or understand, but we do appreciate that. I thank them all. I know they work extremely hard. There are many local small businesses that supported my campaign. I thank Matt Roberts from Allsop & England Organic Butchers, Ian Chapman from VMP, Gloria from Lady Brock and Mohsen Amini from the Taste of Saffron.

Finally, I thank each and every single person in the electorate of Greenslopes for the huge honour and opportunity to represent the electorate. I thank the community groups and all of those small businesses that serve our community. I promise and recommit to working hard every single day with the people of Greenslopes, as I have done over the past six years. Now we will work not just to build community—we will keep working to build community—but also to keep Queenslanders safe and to lead the recovery.