




Speech By
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BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL 2021

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.39 am): With your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, before I start my contribution I would like to express my condolences to the family and friends of Jill Dempsey, who is the first nurse in Australia to die as a result of caring for people with COVID-19. We have seen this around the world. It is shocking for our professional colleagues, but when it happens on home soil it brings it so much closer. Please get vaccinated.

Here we are, debating yet another bill and apparently we are all in furious agreement. The LNP is on side, as they always are with many of these bills, but—there is always a but—they have to write a statement of reservation. It does not surprise me. Does anybody remember ‘hope over fear’? I have heard that ‘hope over fear’ speech about 16 times in the last 12 months. 2022 was going to be the year of ‘hope over fear’. We were going to have a new type of politics. We were going to try something brand new, but it seems that every time we agree on something, they find something so they can say ‘but’—but—‘we have a statement of reservation’. I have not heard much hope in the speeches of the LNP in relation to bills in the last few sitting weeks. All I have heard is fear, really. When I talk to people in my community about ‘hope over fear’, I think what they fear is anybody who was involved in the Newman government ever being allowed to be involved in anything to do with running the state of Queensland again, and they sincerely hope that it never happens.

The statement of reservation was put together by the member for Mermaid Beach, the member for Coomera and the member for Ninderry, some of whom have been here longer than I have. I do want to take the opportunity to point out that when you put a statement of reservation together you are usually meant to have some reservations. I thought somebody had stapled the wrong page to my report because they seem to have identified exactly what the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing in the run-up to the 2032 Olympics. Normally I have to work hard to write my speeches—I am not a natural writer—but I did not bother this time because they have written it for me. I am going to quote directly from part of the statement of reservation—

To this end, it is imperative that Queensland capitalise on this once in a generation opportunity.

Here we go! This is where it gets interesting. It continues—

To do so, our state must:

- Build infrastructure required to deliver the games which can leave a lasting legacy for all Queenslanders. It's critical that Queensland's investment leaves a lasting and meaningful infrastructure footprint.

Mr Whiting: Tick!

Mr KELLY: I will take that interjection. That is a big tick. Consider what the LNP did in that mercifully short time they were in government: they built themselves the LNP pamper pack. What did they build? Queenslanders said, ‘We want all this stuff.’ Those opposite said, ‘What are we going to do? We’re going to go and build ourselves one nice big building in the middle of town.’ Realistically, if you only get into government once every 20 years you have to look after yourselves, don’t you? The member for Burleigh kept the pamper pack. He tried to keep the pamper pack going even when the

government changed. When he found out we were announcing the next stage of the light rail, he tried to make sure we built a bit of it to run past his brewery so he would not have to use his car to get there. Unbelievable!

Members opposite talk about delivering infrastructure, but when you look at the infrastructure rolling out across the state in education, housing and roads, they really have a hide to come in here and suggest that this is what we should be doing. It is exactly what we are doing! It is a big tick, and the biggest tick underpinning all of this is Cross River Rail, a transformational piece of infrastructure. If those opposite had not been in government for such a mercifully short period of time we would not have Cross River Rail; we would all be jumping up and down about the BaT tunnel that does not work. That is the reality. They had no interest in Cross River Rail and they have undermined it ever since we have been trying to put it in place. Let's go to dot point No. 2.

As stated in the statement of reservation, it is imperative for our state to—

- Use the opportunity to skill and train Queensland's workforce. Our state will need construction, hospitality and tourism jobs—along with other key industries. Upskilling the local Queensland workforce should be an important facet of our preparation for the games.

Seriously, you cannot make this stuff up. This is gold! Well done to the members of the committee. I usually congratulate them, but this time I am going to double-down on that: I really congratulate them. This is the party that cut Skilling Queenslanders for Work. They slashed Skilling Queenslanders for Work! What do they think Skilling Queenslanders for Work does? They decimated TAFE. Just last week I met with the three organisations in my electorate that received the latest round of Skilling Queenslanders for Work funding, and guess what they are delivering? Construction, hospitality and tourism jobs! If there was an LNP government in office now they would not be delivering those things because that program was cut, slashed, burned.

Should I go on? Yes, let's get to dot point No. 3. I only have two more to go. I hope I get there in my four remaining minutes. I am glad the Minister for Tourism is here. The statement of reservation continues—

- Develop a 20-year tourism plan which can benefit the width and breadth of the entire state. It's critical that the state capitalise on this opportunity when the eyes of the world are cast on Queensland. As such, Queensland should be working on unlocking and expanding world class tourism products which are ready before, during and after 2032.

This is revolutionary stuff, I know. The Minister for Tourism is sitting there looking perplexed because he probably had not thought of it. As if the 2032 Olympics is not a 20-year tourism plan, for goodness sake! Wait on, we have another dot point here that states—

- Promote and foster a generation of Queenslanders to live active and healthy lifestyles off the back of hosting the Olympic games. In doing so, Queenslanders can reduce the morbidity and mortality of chronic illnesses associated with sedentary lifestyles.

Let's think about what the LNP did when they were in government. How many of those non-profit organisations that stick up for people affected by chronic illnesses like Diabetes Queensland and the Kidney Foundation had their kidney—their funding cut?

A government member: They might as well have taken it; they took everything else!

Mr KELLY: I am taking that interjection: they took it all! They took all of their funding! Not only did they take their funding but they said, 'If you stand up and raise your voice, we're going to take even more stuff off you.' They did not just take their funding—they were not content with that—they gagged them as well. I tell you what: that is not how you build a generation of Queenslanders who are going to live active and healthy lives. You do what the Palaszczuk Labor government has done: you refund those organisations and you do not gag them. Then you go ahead and set up Health and Wellbeing Queensland. You go into the public health system and reset the health services that were decimated by the LNP. If the three health ministers had not backed the current Governor, the former chief health officer, to rebuild those sections of Queensland Health our capacity to deal with this global pandemic would have been zero and none. In terms of promoting and fostering 'a generation of Queenslanders to live active and healthy lifestyles off the back of hosting the Olympic Games', we certainly agree with that and we are certainly working towards this.

I cannot believe that I will be able to get on a bus near my house and be at the games in under five minutes. When I moved to the area in 1996 it used to take me 50 minutes to get into town on the 175 bus. I can now get there in about 10 to 15 minutes. The bus goes right past the Gabba, which used to have the hill. It is now a world-class stadium and it is going to get even better. It is right on the doorstep of our community. We are excited. It is the light on the hill for Queensland. We were awarded these games because as a government we are building the infrastructure we need for these games. As a government we have managed the global pandemic, and people around the world have sat up and taken notice of that.

If the alternative government was in place we would have none of that infrastructure built. We would have opened the border 46 times and let the pandemic out of the box in Queensland which we have managed to keep contained. We are continuing to keep it contained. I can tell you that the IOC looked at all of these things when they were making their decision about where to award the Olympics. It presents huge opportunities to the electorate of Greenslopes, but it also presents huge opportunities for Queensland because these are games for the entirety of Queensland. They will benefit people whether they are in Townsville, Mount Isa, the Torres Strait or Greenslopes, a five-minute ride on the 175 bus from games HQ. It is an exciting time for Queensland. This is our light on the hill moment to get out of COVID. The Palaszczuk Labor government is already delivering. I support the bill before the House.