



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2)**

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 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.24 am): I support the bills. Before I get into discussing the substantive matters in the bills, I will respond to some of the contributions made in the House. Let us start with the one we have just heard, which was extremely far from the long title of the bill. Perhaps we do not have to worry about that anymore now that we have time-limited speeches, but we were not even close on that one.

I make no secret of the fact that I am a big fan of the member for Hervey Bay. He is a great local member.

**Mr McCallum:** There is a lot to like.

**Mr KELLY:** There is a lot to like; I take that interjection. As much as I am a fan of the current member for Hervey Bay, I will admit that there are times when I miss Ted. I was in the Labor movement for 30 years before I was finally called a communist. I had to wait till I came into this place and met Ted to achieve that accolade. I am pleased to say that in the member for Moggill we now have the new Ted. Yesterday, his contribution to the debate channelled his inner Ted. He was regurgitating a dodgy story from the worst sections of the Murdoch press about Albo being a communist. It was absolutely astounding—and I remind the member that he is on a warning. I will be working hard to get Albo elected, but from his contribution yesterday I can only draw the conclusion that the member for Moggill has already awarded the election to Albo if he is prepared to stoop to tactics such as that.

In his contribution, the member for Condamine posed a question about the mystery of Wellcamp. I want to talk about another mystery. I reckon in about 200 years—it probably will not be that long, but let us say 200 years—there will be a bunch of very disappointed archaeologists walking around Pinkenba, looking for the foundations of a so-called quarantine station. That is the real mystery that the member for Condamine should have been talking about. The mystery that most people in his electorate and right across Queensland are talking about is why the Morrison government completely and utterly failed when it came to quarantine. Why did they shirk their responsibilities in relation to that issue? That is the real mystery of Wellcamp. Why did we have to step in to fix another failure of the Morrison government? They not only shirked and abandoned their responsibilities in quarantine; I think we can find that answer in everything else that they have done: aged care as was outlined in question time, disability care and the vaccination rollout in First Nations communities. It is absolutely disgraceful.

I turn to the contribution of the member for Nanango. Apparently, the Palaszczuk government is addicted to debt. For the moment, let us put aside the fact that the member would not say ‘boo’ to the Morrison government about debt and clearly the member would not bother to point out that the Morrison government does not actually have an integrity system to review. Let us put all of that aside. Given the member’s abhorrence for debt, I thought I would check last year’s appropriation debate. LNP speaker after LNP speaker got to their feet and thanked Minister Grace—and so they should—for spending

money on the schools in their electorates. People who, one after another, spoke about their abhorrence of debt were quick to thank the minister, and the list is long. I am not sure if this is an exhaustive list but it is all I could find in the time that I had available.

The member for Burnett joined the chorus. The member for Burleigh got on board to say thank you, as did the member for Surfers Paradise. The member for Kawana actually said thank you to Minister Grace. The member for Theodore said thank you. The member for Toowoomba North said thank you.

**Mr Watts:** And I meant it.

**Mr KELLY:** Indeed, he is continuing it here. Apparently there was some movement at Toogoolawah and Kilcoy state schools as well. The member who was on her feet yesterday abhorring government debt was on her feet last year thanking Minister Grace for new halls at Toogoolawah and Kilcoy state schools. That was none other than the member for Nanango.

I turn to the member for Southern Downs. His contribution involved peddling a tired old line about the private sector being the only creator of jobs. That is a little bit rich coming from a member who has served in the Australian Defence Force. The last time I checked, it was a public institution.

**Mr Whiting:** Not privatised yet by the Morrison government.

**Mr KELLY:** It is not privatised yet. I am not sure what other jobs the member has had so I will stop there. The line is not only tired; it displays a staggering level of economic ignorance. The past two years have been a resounding reinforcement of Keynesian economics and the need for government intervention in the economy. I will never forget the lines of people stretching around the block outside the Centrelink office in Stones Corner. It went on and on and on.

I would drive past that line each day, and I was worried that that would be there for years to come as I am sure were many in this House. That line only disappeared because governments created jobs and directly supported employers to keep jobs. The notion that only the private sector creates jobs is completely and utterly false. In Queensland, our health response was the first and the most important economic response of this government.

Many speakers have established throughout this debate the economic achievements of the Palaszczuk government. I certainly see the results of that diligent work in my electorate. Jobs are being created through investment in schools, public housing, electricity infrastructure, sporting clubs and of course the Cross River Rail. Skilling Queenslanders for Work continues to create jobs. Just today I saw the Institute of Culinary Excellence post on its social media channels about the first group intake of students via Skilling Queenslanders for Work, preparing students for the hospitality industry where we desperately need workers.

For the first time, the Premier made a significant announcement yesterday around fast rail. It is an important announcement in terms of the Olympics. I wanted perhaps to talk about a slower paced form of transport, at least when I engage in the form of transport. I am really pleased about the many cycling projects that are coming together in the electorate of Greenslopes and beyond. We have invested or are in the process of investing nearly \$90 million in making sure that cyclists get home faster and safer. The Veloway, stages D and E, including the Marshall Road overpass, has opened up cycling for Holland Park, Holland Park West and Mount Gravatt. The underpasses on O'Keefe Street and the overpass on O'Keefe Street open up better access for Stones Corner, Greenslopes and Coorparoo. The recently announced PAH Veloway will connect the existing cycleways to Dutton Park, Boggo Road, the Ecosciences Precinct, UQ, the Mater Hospital and many other places. All this is making cycling safer and better, and that is great for everyone. Truly, cycling in Greenslopes is getting better, safer and brighter.

I have copped a lot of jibes from members opposite, particularly in the LNP, about cycling infrastructure in the electorate of Greenslopes. I will never begrudge other members coming in here and standing up for better roads or better infrastructure in their electorates that will help to keep people safe, but the infrastructure that is needed in my electorate right now is cycling infrastructure—not just for cyclists but also for e-scooters—because the electronic vehicle revolution has already happened in my electorate. The number of people riding electric bikes and electric scooters is absolutely phenomenal. So we need that infrastructure in place to make sure that people are getting around safer, faster—I see the minister for the environment nodding her head—and in an environmentally friendly way as well. We only achieve this when we manage the economy well.

I commend the Premier, the Treasurer and the entire cabinet for the continued great work on economic management that is focused on making life better, safer and brighter for all people in Greenslopes and for all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.