




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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MAJOR SPORTS FACILITIES AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.22 pm): It seems like the member for South Brisbane completely missed the point of the speech I made yesterday. This is not an investment for two weeks; this is an investment for the next 40 to 60 years. Perhaps if the member is so concerned about housing affordability she and her mate Jon Sri would stop holding placards every time someone tries to build apartments in the area. If we want to deal with housing affordability we have to deal with housing supply. If every time we try to do that someone comes along and tries to shut that down then that will have an impact on housing affordability.

It is really interesting to talk about what we could invest our money in and the impacts on community. When the South East Freeway, the Clem 7 tunnel and the Veloway were built—and it is still being built—whenever we have these major infrastructure projects, there is a decision by government about where to allocate and where to spend money. Inevitably, there is an impact on the community. However, there is also a great social benefit for the broader community. When we are serious about being in government, we have to actually make those tough decisions and look at those broader social benefits that accrue to society.

The member wants to talk about housing and health care. When we look at my area, we see that two new sets of social housing opened in the last two to three years. In the member's area a year to 18 months ago, the Brisbane Housing Company opened 70 or 80 units and they have just announced another one in Stones Corner, all thanks to the Palaszczuk government. In health care there are 250 new beds at the PA Hospital. In the area of public transport, there is Cross River Rail. What is that—a \$9 billion project? Then there is the Veloway.

Mr Minnikin: No, \$5.4 billion.

Mr KELLY: \$5 billion—whatever it is. In the area of schools we have built infrastructure at different schools in my electorate. In terms of jobs we are investing in Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

If the member wants to talk about investment, I say we can do all these things and actually invest in the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which will be beneficial to the entire community. No-one is denying that is going to have impacts on our community. Certainly some of these major stadiums have impacts on my community. If honourable members go and talk to the people who run businesses around the Coorparoo train station they will say that every time there is a game at the Gabba there is a significant impact on their business. We know there are impacts on those businesses, but we also have to look at the massive benefits that accrue to our community broadly from having the capacity to run these things.

I do want to respond to some of the things said by the member for Everton and other members of the LNP. I love being lectured to about infrastructure by the LNP—and I will be lectured to about infrastructure by the LNP—because it gives me a chance to talk about their 'proud' history when in government when it comes to infrastructure. Let's see. In my electorate there was negative one hall. They promised one, they took it away and they moved it over to then premier Campbell Newman's

electorate. We have one hall that was promised in the entire electorate and that was shut down. I can say that this government has built two halls at that school, Cavendish Road State High School. It was great to see Dick Johnson, a former Cavendish Road student here today. What else did they build? There was not much that I could see, but we did get one big building here in town.

Mr Hinchliffe: They cut the ribbons on a few things.

Mr KELLY: They did cut ribbons on a few things. We hear members opposite going on about Labor and infrastructure, but there is so much going on just in my little electorate now in terms of infrastructure. I know if we expand that across the entire state the list would go on and on.

I love to hear the member for Coomera yelling at the top of his voice about infrastructure. I pose the question: did the member actually do any yelling when he was in government? When he was a member of the caucus in the Newman government, did he ever do any yelling about his M1, his schools, his police stations and his hospitals? No, I do not think any yelling happened there. Was there any congratulations for the schools we have built and are building in that area or for the hospitals or the police stations we are building or the work we are doing on the M1? I do not think so. There was just lots of yelling.

As the minister said, this bill is setting up another important step towards the Olympics and the Paralympics, but it is also about managing all of those venues not just for sporting events but for cultural events as well. It certainly streamlines these facilities and makes them more agile. The fact that we can utilise some of this land and the facilities for commercial activities should not be something we shy away from. I see all the time in my electorate community organisations utilising public infrastructure or public land to engage in commercial activities that raise money which helps them continue to engage in sport, music and cultural activities. I do not see that as necessarily a major issue.

With those few words, I say this bill is achieving what it set out to do. It is streamlining the processes that we need to run these stadiums. That will be good for Queensland and it will be great for the Olympics and the Paralympics.