



Speech By
Joseph Kelly


MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)

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BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (4.47 pm): I love being lectured to by the LNP on the Appropriation Bill. In fact, I will be lectured to by the LNP on the Appropriation Bill. It gives me the opportunity to rebut much of their ridiculous nonsense.

In question time the member for Coomera mentioned a theoretical child—I think it was a theoretical child—and raised concerns around the hospital for Coomera. I want to address that theoretical child from Coomera, because I can tell you some of the things that theoretical child from Coomera will not be doing, no matter what age she gets to. She will never be drinking water from the fake Bradfield scheme. She will never be out there dancing under the sprinkler, watering the garden or making cups of tea with water from the fake Bradfield scheme because, even if those opposite had been elected, the fake Bradfield scheme had absolutely no funding until two years after the Olympics. It is utterly ridiculous for those opposite to stand there and lecture us on delaying projects when their whole promises are delayed projects.

I can tell the House what else that theoretical child will not be doing. They will not be driving up and down the gold-plated Bruce Highway that was also promised. At the time of the election, I think it was 16 years hence that that would have been delivered.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr KELLY: It certainly was not promised by ScoMo. What that theoretical child might be able to do if they fast-track through uni at the speed the member for Coomera outlined for them is they might be able to read a master plan for the Coomera Hospital. As the Minister for Health pointed out, all that the member for Coomera promised in the last election was a master plan. We are actually delivering a hospital at Coomera, just as we have delivered many other things for the electorate of Coomera. I know the member for Coomera likes to come in here and yell at this side of the House about all the things he thinks should happen in the electorate of Coomera, but I wonder how much yelling he did when the Newman government was in power for a mercifully short period of time.

This appropriation bill again demonstrates what a fantastic economic manager the Palaszczuk Labor government is, and I want to commend the Treasurer for his ongoing good work. We have seen record low unemployment rates in our state, and that is a result of good economic management. We have come through some of the most difficult economic times as a state and we have managed to come out the other side in better shape. Yes, we have some challenges coming our way, but I am absolutely confident that we are capable of meeting those challenges.

I look around every day and I see the things we are doing in my electorate that make a difference; they make people's lives better, safer and brighter in the electorate of Greenslopes. In the education sector, I see \$18 million being invested in Holland Park High. It is the biggest investment in that school since it was opened 51 years ago. I see people riding on the Veloway, getting to and from work faster and safer. Now thanks to the budget there is going to be an overpass over O'Keefe Street and another one going over the back of the PA Hospital. This will connect our community even better. I believe that eventually they will go all the way in the other direction down to the Springwood area. That is a fantastic program. I see the Brisbane Tigers, formerly Easts—I was hoping they might be the Firebirds, but that is another story—have construction of their new facility underway. I am dropping out to see it tomorrow. That is a million dollars contributed by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

As I said, I love being lectured on health by the members opposite. I see what is happening in my area. There are 249 new beds at the PA Hospital to the tune of \$359 million. Just today we have seen a real concrete outcome of the mental health inquiry that I had the pleasure to lead. We put aside \$1.6 billion in a dedicated fund for mental health services, and we have seen eight new mother and infant mental health beds opened at the Mater Hospital partially funded by that fund. We had four in the state; we now have 12. That is an incredible step forward in such a short time. I see social housing being built in my electorate. I am pleased to say that Brisbane Housing Company has announced a new project in Stones Corner that will have social and affordable housing. I hope the Greens do not come and protest against that because it will be high-density living, but it is absolutely the right spot to do it. I see the benefits of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. I do not have to go far for that. I can walk around here in parliament and see people who have graduated from Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs in my electorate working in the catering section of Parliament House.

Ms Farmer: Such a big supporter of the program.

Mr KELLY: Absolutely, I will take that interjection. Nothing makes me prouder—and I am sure it is the same for every single person on this side of the House—than seeing people with challenges and disadvantages in life getting into a decent, dignified job.

Ms Farmer: Do you know they cut that when they first got in?

Mr KELLY: Absolutely they cut it. They slashed it and burnt it. We would not see those people walking around Parliament House with dignified and decent jobs if those opposite had been in power.

Let me finish with Cross River Rail, one of my favourite projects. It is going to deliver a huge boost for the entirety of South-East Queensland. It is going to deliver economic benefits right across the state. It is a fantastic project. I heard the member for Maroochydore talking during this debate about the federal government's contribution to a project at the Sunshine Coast. The reality is they contributed zero dollars—'not a cracker' was the term used by my friend the member for Coomera—to Cross River Rail. The Palaszczuk Labor government has done the heavy lifting when it comes to that project—just like we are doing the heavy lifting when it comes to the Energy and Jobs Plan. We will continue to do the heavy lifting, we will continue to manage the economy well, and we will continue to create jobs and make life better, safer and brighter for the people of Greenslopes. I commend the bills to the House.