




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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**BODY CORPORATE AND COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.47 pm): In the last sitting week in this very chamber, we had one of the great mysteries of parliament revealed in this House and that was the Condamine-Maiwar alliance that was revealed by the member for Mirani. It had flown under the radar for a very long time and suddenly we found out that the member for Condamine and the member for Maiwar have been conspiring together. Tonight in this debate we have seen who is really in charge of the LNP, and that is the Mermaid Beach-Theodore push. They are in charge of the LNP, because when you read the statement of reservation, while there are certainly some things that have been raised in the debate this evening, the LNP at no point have indicated they would not be supporting this bill. They have walked in here this evening and certainly backflipped on their position in relation to this. I can only put that down to the unseen power of the member for Mermaid Beach, backed up by the member for Theodore.

The member for Scenic Rim claims that the LNP are the battlers' champions. Earlier this year, the LNP walked in here and voted on a bill that would have made a big difference to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and I think you could ask any person who is an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person whether they feel supported by the LNP because they have backflipped on that. Even a vote in this House, if they voted on something that supposedly made them the battlers' champion, you could not trust. You could not trust the LNP in relation to this. They might come in here and posture and say they are concerned about the elderly woman living in a unit in Mermaid Beach, but the reality is they will backflip on this at the drop of a hat. They will backflip, mark my words.

Ironically, when I first started to read through the notes to this bill I shared those concerns because I have a significant number of older unit complexes in my electorate and I know many people who are in the situation that the LNP have been describing here tonight. What did I do about that? I went and had engagements with the former attorney-general and the current Attorney-General and their staff. I was very pleased that I had those engagements because I was able to give great comfort to the people in my electorate who have raised concerns with me about this matter and the process that is being put in place to protect their interests. We have to balance that against the interests of people being allowed to live in unsafe conditions. That is what the LNP would be proposing if they somehow blocked this.

This is about taking buildings that are no longer economically viable—and often that is because they are unsafe—and making them safe. It is so typical of the lazy LNP to come in here and crow on about a housing crisis. The government comes in here and starts putting up bills that lead to renewal and further investment in housing and what do they do? They block it. They do not come in here and put up an alternative policy position. They just come in and say they will block it. There is no alternative policy position.

The shadow minister used nearly all of her speaking time and at no point during that very extensive speech—and I did listen to all of it—did she lay out an alternative policy. She just said, 'We're going to do something in the future,' and we all know that we cannot trust anything that those opposite say they are going to do in the future. Even if they vote on it in this House, even if they take the solid oath of this parliament and vote on it in this House, they will backflip on it. Nothing that they say has any credibility in this chamber. Even if the members opposite did put up an alternative policy or proposal, who could trust it? It is not worth the glossy paper it is written on. The right-wing priorities document has probably devoted no words to this at all. It is not worth it at all.

I will be monitoring this situation because I have a lot of people in my electorate who live in these older units, so it is of deep concern. It is also of deep concern when we see people living in units the viability and safety of which we would have to question. I think this is a good step forward.

There are a couple of other matters that I do want to cover off as well. We heard the impassioned speech given by the member for Currumbin outlining the amazing contribution of the member for Theodore. It was such a great speech—and he is clearly a champion of this issue—that no doubt it will be turned into a six-part Netflix documentary. Once I finish watching the documentary on Nelson Mandela or Archbishop Romero or Rosa Parks I will flip straight over to the documentary about the member for Theodore.

I do agree that this bill is doing very important work in relation to sunset clauses. I have not heard the member for Theodore talk about this before. I am not saying he has not, but I have not heard that during my time in this chamber. However, I have heard this issue raised over and over again in the community by many people. It is an issue that is long overdue for addressing and I do congratulate the Attorney-General on moving in this direction.

Finally, the last thing I want to comment on in relation to this bill is something that I am extremely passionate about and that is the impacts of smoking in multi-unit dwelling complexes. A lot of people have contacted my office and me over the years about this issue. As a nurse, I can tell honourable members that second-hand smoke is absolutely deadly. It is absolutely devastating to have children exposed to second-hand smoke. I can tell honourable members that while there are a lot of elderly folks living in units in my community, we also have really significant numbers of families living in unit complexes. We have a lot of kids in these unit complexes. I am absolutely pleased to support these provisions.

I was concerned to make sure that these provisions applied to vaping as well as other smoking products. I am really pleased to say that through engaging, again with the Attorney-General's office, I was able to confirm that things like vapes and, as we are seeing more commonly in my community, the communal hookah smoking apparatus will all be captured by this. I think this is a really important step forward. Giving bodies corporate the power to make their complexes safe for residents in this way is a very important step forward. With those few words, I commend the bill to the House.