




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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**ENERGY (RENEWABLE TRANSFORMATION AND JOBS) BILL; CLEAN
ECONOMY JOBS BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.27 pm): I support these bills for a couple of simple and key reasons: first, they take real action on climate change; second, these bills are helping us look after workers; third, because we are keeping these assets in public hands; and, fourth, because we are going to deliver even cheaper energy.

When we were elected in 2015 there were a couple of big challenges in our community: unemployment was high; public services like health, education and many other parts of the Public Service had been gutted and demoralised; and community services had been gagged and defunded. We rose to those challenges. We got more Queenslanders into jobs. We rebuilt our health, education and public services. We ungagged those community services and we listened to them even when they did not agree with us.

Another big issue for the people in my community that has been consistent throughout the entire time I have been representing them is the need to respond to climate change. I have seen that debate evolve over time. People reject the extremism of gluing yourself to the road and all of those extreme actions that disrupt people's lives. They reject the LNP's approach of burying your head in the sand and pretending there is no problem here. They want a sensible plan that is taking real action on climate change, and that is what these bills are delivering.

When I was first elected I had fairly serious doubts that anybody could really take on the issue of addressing climate change. I thought it would be almost impossible. I did start to think about the global action that was taken in the 1980s and 1990s to address the hole in the ozone layer, and that gave me hope that, if they put their heads together, the global community could rise to the challenge and our state and our country could make a real contribution in this area.

One of the first people I ever heard talk about climate change as an issue was the Premier. That was many years ago when we worked together at the Queensland Public Sector Union, which is now the Together union. At the time, the Premier led a debate in our union and I admit I was one of the many union members who was confused as to why workers should spend their time organising efforts in response to this issue. He was ahead of the pack on this issue and I think now most workers would understand why it is fundamentally important that we take action on climate change. We know the impacts of climate change will fall most heavily on those people on lower incomes and those people who work for a living.

When we were elected, only seven per cent of Queensland's energy was generated by renewable energy. Now we are sitting at around 27 per cent and the speed of the introduction of more renewable energy is increasing every day. We will hit our targets but these bills will lock that in. This is real action on climate change and the people in my community overwhelmingly support this action and these bills.

Of course, not everyone is committed to clean energy. Proton Pete Dutton is dictating to his LNP colleagues that nuclear is the way forward. I heard him with my own ears—

A government member: Duttonheimer.

Mr KELLY: Duttonheimer; I will take that interjection. I heard him with my own ears, sprouting about it on the ABC the other morning, but, of course, he was only sprouting about how great it was. He was not actually giving us details. He was not saying where they are going to build it or how much it was going to cost. He did not say how we would have the capacity to even build these things, how long they will take to build or how we would manage the waste. It was just lots of thought bubbles about this being the way forward. That is because his party contains the member for Callide who, in his opening speech to this parliament, sang the praises of retaining a system of generating energy that we know is ultimately damaging our planet even though we have other ways to generate energy, look after workers and deliver cheaper energy. His party controls him. His party is moving further to the right.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr KELLY: I have heard the LNP members—there is one of them carping on right now—such as the member for Bonney saying that they are ruling it out. Unfortunately, they voted in this chamber for the Path to Treaty. It was the chamber in Cairns, actually. Then they turned their backs on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of Queensland. Nothing they say can be trusted. You cannot even trust them when they vote in this place.

The second reason I support this bill is because it looks after the workers. I am proud to be part of the Labor Party that will always stand up for workers. We know things change in industries, but the changes being faced in this industry are significant and seismic. We need to make sure that we look after not just the workers but also the communities the workers come from. This Miles government plan will create 100,000 good, secure jobs. Public ownership is the next reason that I support the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! Pause the clock for a moment, please. Members on my right and members on my left, there is too much conversation. Please keep quiet or take it outside.

Mr KELLY: To be fair, it has been a long day. I can understand it, but I am almost there. Of course, I support this bill because it is key to allowing the Miles Labor government to deliver investment in cheap, reliable and publicly owned renewables.

Of course, the LNP are voting against keeping energy assets in public hands and that means, under the LNP, thousands of Queenslanders would lose their jobs, billions of dollars in renewable energy would be cut and Queenslanders would pay hundreds of dollars more on their power bills. Everything that we are working for in these bills would be at risk under an LNP government. They would cut investment in renewables, slash jobs, increase power prices and sell out to their mate Proton Pete Duttonheimer on nuclear energy. I support these bills because they take real action on climate change, which people in my community absolutely support.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr KELLY: I am not taking the member for Theodore's inane and ridiculous interjections. I would seek your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker, because he is such an effective speaker! In fact, if I did not have my hearing aid turned up I would not know he was interjecting.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, you have the call. Member for Theodore, your interjections were not being taken until they were being taken. Members, please keep the interjections to a minimum, especially if they are not being taken.

Mr KELLY: If you want to interject, you might want to speak up a bit. You might want to have a bit of passion and belief. The member might want to have some passion and belief in his interjections, but he just sits there mumbling away pretending that he cares about the issues but all he says is, 'Mmm, mmm, mmm!' He does not really believe anything he is saying. He probably came in here and voted for Path to Treaty, but he probably just mumbled his way through that because he did not believe in that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, direct your comments through the chair, please.

Mr KELLY: All he could do was just mumble away because that is all the LNP can do. If you actually believe in something then you have to stand up and proclaim it. I believe in these bills because they will allow us to provide cheaper energy, look after workers and take real action on climate change. I commend the bills to the House.