




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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HELP TO BUY (COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.41 pm): It is always nice to come in after the ‘chief minister for nimbyism’ over there, who is apparently opposed to social housing and everything—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Use correct titles, member.

Mr KELLY: Of course, Madam Deputy Speaker. It is probably beneath me to go for those personal attacks, but the member engaged in those personal attacks. It is the sort of thing I have come to expect from the Greens who want to attack people personally. I do not care how many houses people own and I do not care what choices people make around housing. This bill is about helping some of the lowest income Queenslanders get into the housing market. I would have thought that would be something that every single person in this chamber would get behind. Sadly, the member for Bonney is probably going to get on a unity ticket with the Greens and set up the commissioner for nimbyism—the commissioner for stopping everything anywhere. That is what is going to happen, member for Bonney.

The Greens have form. I am surprised at the LNP, but the Greens have form. Just today, in the Brisbane City Council there was a vote going on about the Stones Corner precinct plan. That is a plan that is going to ultimately lead to more housing. It is a great location with a lovely park that has been redone and it has good public transport thanks to our Labor government. It is a really fantastic location crying out for density development and we have started to see some of that happening, and this plan would really speed that up. What did the Greens do? Did they vote for the plan? No, they abstained from the vote. They could not even vote against it. They could not take a position in relation to that. I should not be surprised at the Greens, but I am absolutely shocked at the LNP and their behaviour federally in not backing the Help to Buy scheme.

I met a young couple when I was out doorknocking last Saturday. I was talking to them about the fantastic changes we have made to make renting fairer for young Queenslanders. They were not really interested in talking about that, although they were pleased with what we have done. What they really wanted to talk about was how we are going to help them get into a house. I took them through some of those policies, and I have got even more after today to talk to them about. There are even more policies to help young people get into a house. When I took them through the Help to Buy scheme and explained to them that it was being held up federally by a combination of the LNP and Greens, they were absolutely shocked and disgusted. They thought it was disgraceful that a program that will help some of the lowest paid people in our state to achieve that dream of becoming a home owner was being held up.

This program will also take demand out of the rental property market. If you want to stand around and say there is a housing crisis and that rents are going up, wouldn't you be trying to look at every single thing you could do from an economic perspective to put downward pressure on rents. One of the best things you could do is either get supply into the market or take demand out of the market. This bill will take demand out of the market. It is an excellent bill in that respect, so why would people who claim they are so committed to renters do that?

It is probably the same reason they are opposing the plans in Woolloongabba that will lead to more social and affordable housing as well as more housing stock overall. Instead of saying, 'Yes, that's a great proposal'—as I have done in Stones Corner, where I have looked at the plans and said, 'Yes, we need more housing and this is a good place to do it. This has got the transport links and the amenities. People are crying out for it so let's get this done'—their response has been, 'No, we're going to stop that from going forward.'

This Help to Buy scheme is going to help young people particularly who want to get into the housing market. I also note it is going to help people with disabilities and older women, which I think is fantastic. By helping those people into the housing market, they will develop equity in those properties over time and that will give them economic agency and independence. That can only mean good things for those people.

This is an example of how at every level the Labor Party is committed to ensuring that people can buy their first home. When you buy that first home and you work your way through paying your bills, maintaining that property and getting ahead on your mortgage payments if you can, you suddenly gain economic independence and you are empowered, and that is what the Labor Party is all about. It is about empowering people. With those few words, I commend this bill to the House.