




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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**RESOURCES SAFETY AND HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL;  
MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.07 pm): Being a humble backbencher, I am used to often delivering my speeches to a rather cavernous chamber, but tonight things became very dire when the chamber became extremely cavernous, and I think what that demonstrated is the stark contrast in leadership between the new Miles government and the tired, worn-out, lazy opposition that has become so weak, they have forgotten how to opposition. We saw the Premier come in tonight on this very bill and show extensive leadership, saying there will be no carbon capture in the Great Artesian Basin.

**Mr Millar:** It took him a while to do it.

**Mr KELLY:** It took him a while to do it, but he did it, showing great leadership, member for Gregory, acting on beliefs that he has held for decades, beliefs that I have seen developed over 25 years of working together, 25 years of work and friendship. His leadership was on great display.

We had a great opportunity, a fantastic opportunity, for the member for Bonney and all those on that side who say they are absolutely committed to tackling climate change. When the crossbench put up one of their predictable motions, going against what every scientist in the world agrees is true, what did we see? Well, we did not see much at all. We saw nothing! We saw absolutely nothing because we saw a group of members abstaining from voting. They had an absolutely clear chance to prove—

**Mr POWELL:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I know those opposite do not want to talk about the past, but in this case it is not relevant at all to the debate.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): I will take some advice. Thank you, member. There has been some latitude given. I will bring you back to the resources cognate debate.

**Mr KELLY:** Absolutely, Madam Deputy Speaker. Thank you very much. It is not surprising that those opposite do not wish to dwell on the fact that they abstained from that opportunity to show some leadership. It is not surprising—

**Mr Crandon:** You don't want to dwell on the past. You don't want to relive the last nine years, do you?

**Mr KELLY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I am not taking interjections from the member for Coomera.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera.

**Mr KELLY:** I am very happy to dwell on the past, member for Coomera. I am very happy to dwell on all of the achievements of this government over the last six months, and the many achievements of the time that I have been in this chamber, not just in the environmental space, not just in the mining space, but in health care, in housing, in education, in our support for small business. I will dwell on all of that, member for Coomera. I will dwell on that every single day that I am in this chamber, and I will be dwelling on that for the rest of my life, because what I see and what I dwell on is a government that

has really changed Queensland. We took over a Queensland under an LNP crisis. We had an LNP crisis on our hands. We had people who were sacked, we had no investment going into infrastructure and we had absolutely zero action in relation to climate change. That was the LNP crisis that we inherited. I will move on. Even though I am responding to interjections from the member for Coomera, I will move back to the bill.

I, of course, support both bills we are debating here tonight, but I want to focus on the Resources Safety and Health Legislation Amendment Bill. This is an area I have a deep interest in. Obviously, worker safety and keeping people alive at work is incredibly important. I had an opportunity to express that interest during the pneumoconiosis select committee that I was a part of. That inquiry demonstrated the importance of being constantly and honestly vigilant in relation to health and safety matters, particularly on mine sites. I think all members of this House are absolutely shocked whenever there is a death in a workplace. I offer my sincere condolences and thoughts to those mineworkers who have been killed over many years. I note the discussions by some members about the memorial in Moranbah.

I want to update the House on a subject I have spoken about many times before. Another group of workers severely impacted by workplace death around the world are health workers—nurses, doctors and allied health professionals dying as a result of COVID. We have now set up a not-for-profit organisation that will build memorials to those people. This is an issue I feel extremely strongly about. I think the provisions in this bill go a long way towards improving the situation in the mines. What we saw in the black lung select committee is that when industry, governments and even, at times, unions representing workers bought into a collective myth—that endured for 30 years—we saw devastating outcomes for those workers.

I want to talk about the notion put forward by many members of the LNP that there is no tripartite consultation in relation to these matters. I admit that when we went through the black lung select committee there were significant problems in relation to that particular area, but it is a complete nonsense and fiction that is being peddled here tonight by the LNP. There is a Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee. It consists of representatives of industry, workers and the regulators and it is chaired by the RSH commissioner. All of the matters in these bills that pertain to safety have been to that committee for tripartite discussion.

**Ms Grace:** Three times.

**Mr KELLY:** I take the interjection from the minister. They have been to the committee not once, not twice but three times. To suggest that there is no tripartite committee that is looking at these things is false and it borders on misleading this chamber. I know that members of the LNP have already had their speeches written for them—probably there is not an A or a B version; I have not heard many versions tonight—but they should get out the speeches that have been carefully written for them and cross that bit out, because it is just not true and they would be misleading the House if they said it. If they do say it, I might even be tempted to write to the Speaker. You never know.

The provisions in this bill are particularly important. The issue of protections for people raising issues in a workplace was raised at the pneumoconiosis select committee. Those protections have been strengthened. We know that if workers feel intimidated or feel there will be repercussions for raising a safety issue they may be less inclined to do that. That is really quite important. We know that if you want a culture of safety, if you want a workplace where workers are safe and where workers go home to their families at the end of each shift, you need to have a workplace that is open and allows for free and open discussion of any issues that may arise. The reporting of serious incidents is very important.

I am also pleased with the improvements of the definition of labour hire companies. Again, in the pneumoconiosis inquiry we saw problems related to labour hire companies. The dilution of good communication when there were a really large number of labour hire workers on a site often meant things did not go as intended. I appreciate and am pleased with those provisions.

I am also pleased to see the changes in the provisions in relation to industrial manslaughter. I believe that the vast majority of employers are there to do the right thing. They want to keep their workers safe and engage in good workplace health and safety practices, but we know that there are mavericks out there who do not take workplace health and safety seriously. We need those provisions in relation to industrial manslaughter because there could be no more gutting feeling for a family than to see that one of their members has been killed as a result of some sort of employer neglect and there is no recourse or repercussions for that neglect. It is really good that we are going down that path.

I finish where I began: it is very sad to see the stark difference in leadership between this side of the House, backing the environment through those changes around Great Artesian Basin carbon capture, and that side of the House, abstaining from a vote which gave an opportunity to show an absolute commitment to the environment and renewable energy. I wonder how much the member for

Bonney will be passionately standing up to the 'National' part of the LNP on nuclear energy. I saw David Littleproud on the media this morning. They are full steam ahead with their nuclear plans and I do not see the Leader of the Opposition coming in here and showing any of the leadership that has been shown by the Premier here tonight. I commend the bills to the House.