




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE
AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; STATE FINANCIAL
INSTRUCTIONS AND METWAY MERGER AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (10.59 am): ‘Much better off’ is the answer to the member for Kawana’s question. There is just a touch, a tad, an incy wincy bit of irony in the star of ‘Operation Boring’ claiming that we are conning the electorate. This is from the man who was hidden away from the electorate so those opposite might have any chance of winning an election. It has been a big week for handing in other people’s homework, and I am going to hand in a bit of homework for somebody else too. I am reliably informed by one of my colleagues that Justice Wall suggested that the member for Kawana was not hard enough in his activities as attorney-general.

When it comes to handing in homework, it has been a spectacular week. For everything that has been announced this week, the Greens have claimed they did it first, better, longer and harder. Then we have had the opposition members reading their speeches, written by their speech writers. They all have a prompt that says, ‘Now insert the name of your federal member and claim that they did something about an issue that they really had nothing to do with but the Albanese government delivered.’ I have been listening to the speeches all week and I never knew that Bert van Manen and Scottie Buchholz did so much for their communities. I can only assume that Peter Dutton and David Littleproud are under deep threat from Scottie Buchholz and Bert van Manen. The push is on!

All I can say is: if you are going to hand in somebody else’s homework—and I learnt this in grade 11 when I let some of my Rugby League playing friends copy my homework—you had better understand it. Last night, on 7.30, we saw somebody who had handed in someone else’s homework and clearly did not know what he was talking about.

The cost of living is the No. 1 issue for the people in the electorate of Greenslopes. I have been hearing this on the doorstep, at bus stops and at community events for the last two years. People have welcomed the power rebates, the free kindy and the free TAFE that were rolled out last year. I would like to put to bed this ridiculous notion that the LNP speech writers have put into the mouths of every LNP member in this chamber, who have dutifully recited their lines, about this budget being a sugar hit for the next four months.

We have built on our previous cost-of-living measures proportionately to help Queenslanders when they need it. When I stand at public transport stops in Camp Hill, Coorparoo and Greenslopes, people tell me they love the announcement of the 50-cent bus fares. When I knocked on Craig’s door in Holland Park, he was really pleased about those fares but, because he drives to work, he was even happier about the car registration reduction.

A newly minted registered nurse, Jenny, told me how much the power rebates will help her and her daughter. The excitement was palpable at the Holland Park Hawks when the Premier announced the \$200 FairPlay vouchers and the extension of eligibility. Club President Sharon Flannery said that this initiative will really help the club get more people playing soccer or, as she prefers to call it, football.

I was re-elected on Sunday to the committee at Victor Scouts and had the chance to talk to the AGM about the vouchers. The parents were thrilled. Our committee is going to use these vouchers to get more kids into scouting.

The core of this budget is about tackling the cost of living, but it is also about responding to our rapidly growing population with the Big Build—building hospitals, schools, roads, electricity infrastructure, social housing and all the things our community needs. I am proud to be part of a government that continues to tackle these big issues. We have taken on challenges created by the mercifully short-lived Newman government. When we came to office, there was high unemployment, business confidence had been destroyed, the Public Service had been gutted and the community sector was gagged and defunded. We dealt with all of that.

We got on with the job of tackling climate change, and this budget injects another \$26 billion into our efforts to transition to a clean energy future. COVID-19 wrecked communities around the globe but we got through that relatively safely and built back stronger. Now we are tackling the cost of living. Our Homes for Queenslanders plan is making it cheaper, easier and fairer for Queenslanders to rent or buy a house. It is supporting more people into social housing and helping more people who are experiencing homelessness.

We are not only building and upgrading hospitals; we are fundamentally changing our systems so Queenslanders get the health care they need closer to home. Our satellite hospitals are taking pressure off emergency departments. Our Women and Girls' Health Strategy is delivering health care closer to home with the pelvic pain and endo clinics and the nurse-led walk-in clinics. Our Better Care Together mental health plan, which I am very proud of, is seeing more Stepping Stone Clubhouses being built, more mother and baby mental health beds rolled out and more eating disorder services, including lived experience workers like those we met yesterday on the green downstairs.

Every LNP member here has dutifully recited their prewritten speech and encouraged the people of Queensland to reflect on the last 10 years and ask themselves if they are any better off. Even the member for Kawana stuck to the script, so I will help to answer that question for my community of Greenslopes. The answer is a resounding yes. We have invested in every single state school in my electorate—new or upgraded classrooms, tuckshops, halls, playgrounds, air conditioning, solar panels, manual arts blocks, sporting facilities, and the list goes on. Even some of the Catholic schools have received funding as well.

In this budget, we are investing in Coorparoo, Greenslopes and Seville Road primary schools. We are investing in staff in schools—more teachers and prep teacher aides—and in welfare areas—GPs, nurses, psychologists and youth workers. Every sport and recreation club, from bowls clubs to swim clubs, has received investment in the last 10 years.

In this budget, the Holland Park Hawks will get upgraded facilities to help even more kids play football. There will be more social housing, with over 100 units built. There will be more police, better equipment and I am working on a new police station in Stones Corner. There is more funding for organisations like Zig Zag and Women's Health and Equality to support women impacted by domestic and family violence.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs are helping long-term unemployed people get into the workplace. There are literally hundreds and hundreds of grants to small businesses to support them to employ even more people. There is a \$3 million investment in the Legacy Brisbane health hub and funding for veterans health research in the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation to support veterans.

This budget has doubled the funding for Holland Park Meals on Wheels. There will be 250 more beds at the PA Hospital. The Veloway will just keep getting better and better. Pretty soon, the Cross River Rail will make our trips even faster.

I know what the people of Greenslopes will say. I thank the LNP speechwriters for putting that question into every one of their speeches. The answer is, yes, the people of Greenslopes and Queensland are much better off after 10 years of this government. The people will say that the Miles government is delivering what matters to them—cost-of-living relief now and building for the future. I commend these bills to the House.