




Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Record of Proceedings, 12 September 2024

**PROGRESSIVE COAL ROYALTIES PROTECTION (KEEP THEM IN THE BANK)
BILL**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.16 pm): After listening to that speech, I can only assume that the capitalists and the investors around the world will be weeping with sorrow that they are unable to invest in the mine that the Greens are going to be opening up soon—that wonderful mining company. We have seen demonstrated there what a deep understanding they have of all of these issues. We have that contest now between two doctors in South Brisbane, and my money is on Dr Barbara O’Shea, a 20-year veteran of the PA emergency department. She knows a thing or two about these things as well.

I support the Progressive Coal Royalties Protection (Keep Them in the Bank) Bill. Last night the shadow Treasurer labelled this bill a stunt. Well, is it a stunt to lock in sound economic management going forward? Is it a stunt to make it harder for future governments of any persuasion to give away the resources of our great state? Given the absolutely parlous manner in which those opposite conducted themselves last time they were in government—sacking public servants, gagging community organisations, picking fights with doctors, lawyers and pretty much everyone else and causing economic mayhem—I do not think so. This is no stunt.

If this is just a stunt, why did the shadow Treasurer commit to voting for this bill and commit his Leader of the Opposition to voting for this bill? ‘It’s just a stunt but we’re going to support it.’ If those opposite truly believe that this is a stunt, and if their shadow integrity minister had anything to do with it, wouldn’t they stick to their guns and principles and vote accordingly? Of course not. That is not what they are going to do. Even if they do vote for it, the vote of their leader is pretty meaningless anyway on this bill and anything else. In his contribution to the debate on the Path to Treaty Bill the Leader of the Opposition said—

Path to Treaty is a genuine opportunity for our state to improve the lives of Indigenous Australians. It is an opportunity I believe Queensland should embrace wholeheartedly. I believe in truth-telling, and to me that means telling it like it is. We need to be up-front. We cannot shy away from the real experiences of Indigenous Australians throughout history. We must tell the truth about the real challenges they are facing today.

Mr Power: Where did he say that?

Mr KELLY: In his speech in the second reading debate. Here is what he said just a few months later to the SBS News. I read it in an article. He said—

That process will end. We won’t be wasting any time talking about those issues in terms of treaty and truth-telling processes because we’ve said that we’re not embarking on that.

So what is it? Is it an opportunity, the most opportunity we have to take First Nations people forward, or is it just wasting time talking about those things? What is it? Which one is it? He is certainly not good at truth. The Leader of the Opposition is capable of a backflip—

Mr JANETZKI: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I see no way in which the contribution from the member for Greenslopes is relevant to the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Member for Greenslopes, I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Mr KELLY: I am demonstrating the worthlessness of the vote of the Leader of the Opposition and how a commitment to a vote to this bill is worthless by providing opportunities of examples of—

Mr WATTS: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Greenslopes, I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill around relevance.

Mr WATTS: Deputy Speaker Kelly knows well that that is not part of the question and he is misleading the House in his reply.

Mr POWER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This bill is a revenue bill. People have made really wideranging comments about its application and also about locking in future governments in terms of making changes. It is worthy of debate because others have made different assertions.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will get some advice.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, order! Member for Toowoomba North and member for Logan, there is no point of order. Member for Greenslopes, I have allowed latitude on both sides, and I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill, please.

Mr KELLY: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The opposition leader is capable of a backflip that would have won a medal in Paris on the Path to Treaty Bill, so how can he possibly be trusted if he votes in support of this bill, especially, as the shadow Treasurer said, this bill is merely a stunt. Of course, I would welcome the opportunity to hear from the Leader of the Opposition himself in this debate, but much like the responses to the time that he was running an insolvent company, I suspect we will hear the exact same thing, which is crickets.

I see every single day the benefits accruing to my community from Labor's decade of sound economic management: increased employment; every school has new infrastructure like classrooms, halls, sporting facilities, design and technology blocks, welfare hubs, tuckshops and playgrounds—the list could go on; every single sporting club has benefited with improved facilities; improved public transport with the Veloway, Cross River Rail, Fairer Fares and now the 50-cent fares; increased funding for DV prevention groups like Zig Zag; increased funding for local mental health groups like Stepping Stone Clubhouse, done with the \$1.6 million levy which the Greens voted against, even though they said tax billionaires and put it into mental health care, but when we offered them that opportunity, they voted against it; more hospital beds at the PA and QEII; more perinatal mental health beds at the Mater Hospital; increased funding for Holland Park Meals on Wheels; small businesses in my community growing and employing more people, thanks to the grants we have provided them; supporting our veteran community through funding for the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation and being the biggest government contributor at any level to the Legacy Brisbane veterans' health hub; solar panels and batteries at the Ukrainian Club and the Coorparoo Bowls Club as part of our Energy and Jobs Plan—real action on climate change; more social housing in Mount Gravatt, Holland Park and Stones Corner; and fixing the Coorparoo rail crossing.

The list could go on and on, but that is what you get when you manage the economy well. I believe we have an absolute obligation to protect our economy from those renowned economic vandals sitting opposite. If they ever get back on this side of the House, it will be like an episode of *Vikings: Valhalla*, and the first thing they will attack will be the progressive coal royalties.

My community wants action on climate change. They want mining companies to be paying their fair share for the resources they extract. They want our state to continue to prosper and grow. They know that in order to achieve that we need to manage the economy well and continue to invest in infrastructure, back small businesses and community groups. The only way that the people in my community are going to get any of that is if in 2024 they do not let the LNP in the door and they give Labor four more!