



Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) (SUPPLEMENTARY 2023-2024) BILL:  
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**Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.48 pm): There is another great song from that musical, something about a wicked witch. The people of Queensland know that the wicked witches of the LNP are in charge now; that is for sure. They seem to have forgotten something: they are actually in charge, so if they do not like what is in this appropriation bill they can vote against it. They are in charge; they do not have to do it. Not one of them has got up and talked about that. Nothing was more amusing than watching the member for Lockyer have a go at Labor members speaking off speaking notes while speaking off speaking notes about having a go at Labor members on this side of the House. Come on, member for Lockyer, you can do better than that.

I want to talk about Labor's economic record. Let us broaden this out a bit more. Those on that side of the House take a very narrow view, but I want to talk about some of the economic challenges that we had when we were elected in 2015 and what we did about those. One thing I am extremely proud of—and I know that every single member on this side of the House is proud of this as well—is what we did to create jobs in this state. If you want to improve the economy of a state, you create jobs. How did we create jobs? We trained people, we employed people and we built things.

That brings me to my second point. If you want to improve your economy, you have to invest in infrastructure. What have we heard from those on that side of the House? The transport minister is apparently waiting to get on his feet once again to tell us how difficult his job is and what a tough time it is to be the transport minister; he is softening us up for the blows that are inevitably going to come. The health minister said this morning how difficult it is to build hospitals; he is softening us up for those blows. We are going to once again see an LNP that pulls everything back, and maybe we will get 2 William Street. We have 1 William Street and it is time to build 2 William Street. Maybe that is the one thing they will build in this term of government.

I will tell the House what else we did to improve the economy: we backed the Public Service. We believe in the Public Service. We know that if you want to control weeds on agricultural land, you have to have public servants to do that. If you want to make sure that every worker in this state is healthy and fit to turn up to work and make a contribution, you have to employ public servants. If you want to make sure that children are growing up to be contributors of the future, you have to have public servants. All of those things come with public servants. What did they do? They left us a mess. They left us a Public Service that was absolutely gutted. None of them want to talk about those economic aspects.

Let us talk about climate change. There seems to be a lot of collective burying of heads in the sand over there, but that was an issue that we tackled head-on when we were in government. It is a very big issue for any economy. We can see from the recent events, with the rapidly increasing number of storms, cyclones and tempests that we have to deal with, that it is costing our economy massive amounts of money. Did we bury our head in the sand and say there was nothing we could do? No, we got in there and we started to take action in a whole range of areas in relation to climate change. It is

to their shame that they are shutting down renewable energy projects and moving away from that. I bet they cannot wait for their little mate in Canberra—'Nuclear Pete'—to get himself elected and bring in his nuclear energy that makes absolutely no economic sense whatsoever—zero economic sense.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Member for Southern Downs, cease your interjections.

**Mr J KELLY:** Member for Southern Downs, have you built Emu Swamp Dam yet? He has had over 100 days. He spent three years yelling about Emu Swamp Dam, which would no doubt bring great economic uplift to the region he represents, but has he built Emu Swamp Dam yet? I do not believe that has been done. I am really surprised that in the days we have been sitting in this parliament I have not heard the member for Southern Downs once call out for Emu Swamp Dam. Isn't that amazing? Isn't that interesting? That was the No. 1 thing that he got himself thrown out of this chamber for on a regular basis but it is no longer on the agenda.

I am certainly supportive of this bill and I am supportive of Labor's economic record. We had a fantastic treasurer. With our leader Steven Miles, he put in place the leading cost-of-living package for this state. If people are struggling with their cost of living, the economic spiral downwards is going to be significant. We stopped that and we turned that around. I can tell the House what else we did. We responded very effectively to COVID. It destroyed many other economies around the world but we came back bigger, better and stronger. Those history rewriters on the other side of the House are going to try to rewrite that, but we should never let them rewrite that history. I commend the bills to the House.