



Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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**PLANNING (SOCIAL IMPACT AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT) AND OTHER
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**



Mr J KELLY (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.30 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker—

A government member: You're back!

Mr J KELLY: I am back. They have missed me, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is good to be back. All those people who said that I did not show up to work today have misled parliament. I say that categorically. They have a chance to correct the record before I write to the Speaker because they have all misled parliament. I am back. I can understand why they are so upset. It is because I have been out doing what they would have loved to have done, which is to tell people how bad their budget is. I will—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hunt): Member, you will speak on the bill, please.

Mr J KELLY: I state categorically that people in my community support transitioning to a clean energy future. They loved Labor's Energy and Jobs Plan. If they had any criticism of it, it was that we were not moving fast enough. Imagine being the next LNP candidate in my community who has to walk around explaining to the good voters of Greenslopes that the LNP government has made it harder for renewable energy projects to get off the ground. That will be a pretty quick and short conversation: 'Hello. I'm the candidate from the LNP, I hate renewable energy and I've just made it harder for you to get projects up.' Slam! That is what is going to happen.

When I am doorknocking, I meet loads of people who work in the mining industry—loads of them. A huge number of people who work in the mining industry live in my electorate. When I meet those people at community events or when doorknocking, they tell me that they want to see a transition to a clean energy future and that they also know mining is a key part of that. What they do not support is what the LNP is doing when it comes to renewable energy, which is playing tricks like those being played in this bill. They do not want people to bury their heads in an ideological sandpit. They want action on climate change and they want it now. This bill makes that so much harder.

Supposedly, this is all about listening to councils, which is something that Labor supports. We will do that whether we are in government or opposition and we will do it consistently, unlike the LNP. A couple of months ago in the *Courier-Mail* I read a story about the Deputy Premier and the environment minister taking steps to override a council to help an LNP donor get his eco-tourism business up and running. I seem to recall that, in the exact same paper on that very day, an LNP 'spinbot' was running a line about this legislation giving councils a greater say in whether wind farms or renewable energy projects proceed. One of their little LNP 'spinbots' is probably being forced to watch my speech right now and no doubt is already writing a letter to the Speaker, accusing me of misleading parliament. Seriously, I could not make this up. I am not that good at fiction. It is a pretty simple plot: when an LNP donor is involved, do not listen to council but override them; when a wind farm and action on climate change is involved, listening to council is important and it is an excuse to frustrate and shut down a project. That is really what is going on here.

I read with interest the statement of reservation about the lack of regulatory impact statements. Those opposite really want to give councils a greater say because apparently they are committed to openness, transparency and good governance, yet they cannot even use a standard government tool like a RIS to check if these laws are workable. I can tell members whom else they did not listen to: the Queensland Bar Association. Cate Heyworth-Smith KC certainly did not mince her words. It is a long quote, but I have enough time. She said—

Aside from the breathtaking dismantling of the rights of individuals, this appears very much to be a challenge to the institutional integrity of the Supreme Court by state legislation. It would be unsurprising to this committee, with respect, that there is High Court authority which may be called in aid of having that legislation struck down.

I am no legal eagle but I get the gist of what the good KC was saying there. Given that the Deputy Premier has form for having his laws overturned by a higher court, one would think that he would listen to that good KC and perhaps attempt to avoid that.

A few years ago when I did my Really Big Walk for Parkinson's Queensland from Taroom to Brisbane, I spent two entire days walking through the Coopers Gap Wind Farm. I fully understand why local residents would want to be consulted about those types of projects, but we already have the tools to do that. In fact, the member for Barron River told us a wonderful story about a project in her area that did not go ahead following the use of existing laws. What we are really doing here is setting up projects to fail because the antirenewable, antiscience LNP want to stop those projects.

I am proud of being part of a government that won the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and I will always be proud of that achievement. Our party supports the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games and we want them to be successful for Queensland and for Australia. However, what we do not support is a weakening of oversight. We do not support replacing clear safeguards with vague promises. I certainly do not support riding roughshod over First Nations communities. I am sure First Nations communities will not be surprised that they are being sidelined from genuine consultation about culturally significant sites by a party whose leader voted in favour of the Path to Treaty in this sacred chamber and then turned his back on them and shut down the Path to Treaty. That approach to First Nations communities will be rightly condemned in my electorate and it is a really poor approach to take to any aspect of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Of course, pushing this legislation with the flaws pointed out by the hardworking Labor committee members and multiple submitters and without a RIS might mean that we delay the games as we end up mired in community campaigns, legal challenges and further damage to community support as a result of ignoring the very genuine concerns of the community. This bill really does not help the Olympic and Paralympic Games; it actually jeopardises them. It certainly jeopardises renewable energy projects and that should be of deep concern because, without a clean energy transition, we are failing to take any serious action on climate change and that is disgraceful.