




Speech By  
**Joseph Kelly**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

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### **APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (8.51 pm): Queensland was promised a fresh start, but this budget has delivered a false start. It is a sentiment that I shared with my millions of admiring fans on Facebook last night. I love it when people like my posts. It gives me a really fresh start, member for Lockyer, it really does. Sometimes I even get green shoots I get so excited, but I always love seeing the diversity of people who like my posts and I have to say last night I was—

**Mr Smith:** What did the post say?

**Mr J KELLY:** The post said, 'Instead of delivering a fresh start for Qld, this budget is a false start for families doing it tough.' I was surprised at some of the people who liked my post. I know a lot of those opposite were really unhappy and deeply dissatisfied with the budget. They were very sad that they could not go out into their own communities and tell people how unhappy they were with the budget. They were very angry that I got the opportunity to go to Townsville and tell the member for Townsville's electorate how bad this budget is. I understand that. I know there were other members who went out there to take the message to the people of Queensland about how bad this budget is, stealing the thunder from those opposite who want to talk about how bad the budget is. We heard all about it from the member for Hervey Bay in his contribution about the fire station.

However, I have to say when I was looking through those likes last night, giving myself a fresh start, getting ready to go on, I was amazed that there was one, member for Lockyer—one member brave enough to show his true colours and instead of clicking like on the blue budget, he clicked like on my maroon post. Well done to the member for Lockyer for having the courage to say what everyone was thinking over there. I table the post for the benefit of the House, with the member for Lockyer's contribution highlighted. Thank you, member for Lockyer.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, depicting an extract from the Facebook page of the member for Greenslopes, Mr Joe Kelly MP, regarding the Queensland budget [811](#).

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mr J KELLY:** I think you might have been rated my top follower. I do not think I have ever had a top follower before, member for Lockyer, but I am glad it is you. I am glad it is you—through the chair.

Fresh start, I don't think so; false start, you bet. There are cuts to cost-of-living relief and cuts to infrastructure. There is bad news for nurses and midwives who were looking to David Crisafulli to honour his election commitment to make them the highest paid nurses in Australia. There was the worst news for patients with no certainty around timeframes for the delivery of new beds, and all of this is happening while the debt is going up. This is a bad budget by a bumbling Treasurer. I cannot even see any green shoots on this one, no matter how many times the LNP spin bots put those words into the mouths of those opposite. There are cuts to cost-of-living relief which will mean life will get a lot harder for many Queenslanders.

Electricity rebates were welcomed by people in my community. They put money from the assets owned by Queenslanders, thanks to Labor, back into the pockets of Queenslanders. Even more importantly when combined with the Albanese government's rebates, they brought inflation and interest rates down. Rebates for small businesses flowed into the economy, helping to contain prices, and those opposite like to crow about the 50-cent fares. I have lost count of how many people I have spoken to have said the name 'Steven Miles' and '50-cent fares' in the same breath. I am yet to meet one single person who says 'Mickelberg' and '50-cent fares' in the same sentence. I have heard this though: loud angry bloke who has just given himself a giant 'get out of jail free' card, but I will get to that later.

Congratulations to the Treasurer for caving in to Labor's campaign to keep the FairPlay vouchers. I know Sam from Holland Park will be happy when she hears this program has been saved by Labor. Sam is a single mum living in social housing, and she is unable to get her kids into sport unless she has those vouchers, so she is going to be very happy to hear about this. Full marks on the \$100 for schoolkids. It seems good, but there is a serious lack of detail there, and I do not think any of it will land into the hands of people like Sam to help them out in any true measure.

We have seen \$13 billion cut from infrastructure meaning Queenslanders will sit in traffic for longer, but sadly for some it will mean that they will also lose employment. We know when you invest in infrastructure, you create jobs. What does this mean for hospitals? There is no certainty for health projects because we have one big bucket of money and no timeframes and no details of when the projects will start. I asked a direct question today, a simple question: how many of the promised 2,600 beds will be delivered by 2028? I got so much fudge I could run every school fete in Queensland until 2028. There was no answer. There was nothing.

What does this mean for roads? When I checked with QTRIP on the projects in my electorates that had budgets and timeframes, they now have neither. When will the planning for the Coorparoo level crossing happen? I wrote to the minister asking for a briefing so I could find out when his project would be implemented. Remember the 'minister for I'm going to resign if projects aren't on time and on budget'? Remember that minister? You would think he would be able to answer a question about timeframes. Well, you would have to read a long way in that letter to find that answer because it was not there. It just waffled on about the Brisbane City Council not coming to the party. People in my community have no certainty around when this safety issue will be dealt with and there is no clarity from QTRIP.

Speaking of safety, when will the Birdwood Road Veloway be done? QTRIP certainly will not tell you that. Again, cyclists and motorists will continue to have to put up with this dangerous crossing.

We have ministers running around saying they will resign if they do not deliver projects on time and on budget. I tell you what, it is pretty easy to deliver a project on time and on budget if you do not have a budget and you do not have a timeframe. You have set the bar so low, there is no bar.

What does this budget mean for housing? According to the glossy blue document for East Brisbane, it means 100 new social homes under construction or under contract. That sounds really good, until you realise there are currently 82 units under construction in Stones Corner—nearly finished, nearly built and delivered under the Homes for Queenslanders plan. My maths is pretty good. Let's say 18. That is 18. Unfortunately, there is another 80 already under construction—

**Mr Ryan:** So they are going to cut some!

**Mr JKELLY:** It looks like they will have to get the chopper in there to chop some of that building off to get it down to the 100.

What about education? I am proud of what we delivered when we were in government. Every state school in my electorate benefited from new classrooms, halls, manual arts blocks, hospitality blocks, admin blocks, toilet blocks—if there is any type of block, our school has them—as well as playgrounds, tuckshops, after-school-care buildings, air conditioning and solar panels.

What is in this budget for the electorate of Greenslopes in terms of education? We are getting \$40,000 to do a study for a pick-up zone at the Coorparoo Secondary College, a great local school—just across the road, mind you, from the Coorparoo rail level crossing. I hope the planning study there at Coorparoo Secondary College has a timeframe on it, but perhaps it is like the Coorparoo level crossing and there will be no timeframe on it, so we will be able to meet that on-time and on-budget commitment as well. We have \$40,000 there, so they are going to have to do it with \$40,000, aren't they? I will be watching that one, because, I tell you what, there is nothing else to watch. Every other single thing in the schools in my electorate was delivered by Labor!

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr O'Shea): Member for Buderim, address your comments through the chair.

**Mr J KELLY:** Thank you for your protection, Madam Deputy Speaker. I almost could not hear myself over the very loud member for Buderim. Every single project in a school in my electorate—other than the \$40,000 for the pick-up and drop-off zone—was delivered by Labor. What about sporting infrastructure? When the LNP candidate was announced, about six minutes before the election, he pretty much promised everything I had promised for sporting clubs. That was a good thing because they are rolling that out and that is really good, but when it comes to Australia and the world's best rugby club, Easts Rugby Union, he promised less than I did and so, sadly, Easts Rugby did not get the full amount that I promised—they got the cut-down version from the LNP. I would like to think of that as the very first LNP cut. I am going to claim that! That is my one green shoot from this budget, but, unfortunately, it has turned brown for the people at Easts Rugby Union Club.

Cuts to infrastructure mean that hospital projects will be delayed. It will be harder to get health care. Congestion will get worse. There will be less social housing. There is nothing for our local schools. It will mean fewer jobs for Queenslanders. We invested in infrastructure because it was good for Queenslanders but one of the key benefits was the staggeringly high levels of employment we were able to achieve. This will now all start to reverse, as those opposite cut \$13 billion out of the infrastructure budget.

We know that employee expenses will be lower than previously predicted. We have seen that in the budget. This does not bode well for nurses, teachers and police, particularly the nurses and the midwives who are looking for David Crisafulli and the LNP to deliver on their very own election commitments. We know he promised nurses they would be the best paid in Australia. Why are we not surprised that they have broken those commitments? Nurses and midwives are the latest victims of David Crisafulli's broken promises.

When it comes to this budget, the real problem is not the very bad budget from a bumbling Treasurer; it is the leader who just breaks promises. This is a government built on broken promises. The Premier said his word would mean something. He said, 'When I say something, it means something.' The Premier also said energy bills would be cheaper, debt would be lower and there would be 2,200 new hospital beds by 2028. The Premier promised to keep his cabinet intact. The Premier promised to appoint the member for Mudgeeraba as the health minister—I am pretty glad he broke that promise. He promised to appoint the member for Nanango as the water minister. The Premier promised to have a dedicated local government minister. The Premier himself promised to be tourism minister. He promised to keep the majority of directors-generals. He promised the directors-general would have zero political links—zero political links.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr J KELLY:** Where is John Sosso? True. The Premier promised his ministers would have clear measurable KPIs like delivering projects on time and on budget, but then we will just change the parameters so we do not need those anymore. He promised to hold the ministers accountable for KPIs. He promised Queensland Government Consulting would save \$750 million by 30 June. He promised there would be no new stadiums. He promised to release the terms of reference for the independent games review before the election and he promised those terms of reference would rule out a new stadium. The Premier promised Queenslanders would know who was on the GIICA board before the election. The Premier promised that heavy rail would be delivered all the way to Maroochydore by 2032—no ifs, no buts, no shortcuts. He could come to a union rally with slogans like that. He promised to govern with integrity. He promised to govern with openness and transparency. He promised to listen to the experts. He promised to treat First Nations people with respect. All of those things I have spoken about at length in this place. It is not going well; let me tell you. He promised to be available for questions. He promised to continue funding for the Environmental Defenders Office. He promised to honour emission reductions targets. As we saw in respect of the bill passed here last night, he is not just not honouring those but now working actively to shut down renewable energy projects in this state, taking zero action on climate change—disgraceful. This is a bad budget by a bumbling Treasurer. It does not help Queenslanders with the cost of living.

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Mr J KELLY:** I take the interjection. I think there was a growl from the member for Lockyer. You can get on my Facebook page later on tonight and you can like all of the high points from this speech tonight, member for Lockyer. I will be pointing this out: this is a bad budget by a bumbling Treasurer. That is going to be on my Facebook. It does not help Queenslanders with the cost of living. It does not help them with housing, health care or congestion. It puts the character of the Premier on full display—a leader who will break his promise to anyone, anytime, anywhere. He is just like the Goodies, except he is a baddie. This is not a fresh start for Queensland; it is a false start with absolutely no green shoots.