



Speech By
Joseph Kelly

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

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ADJOURNMENT

Coorparoo Bowls Club

 **Mr J KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (9.14 pm): Next week, I will be heading to the Coorparoo Bowls Club to celebrate my daughter's 21st birthday with family and friends. This venue was not chosen by accident. This is a club where my family feels at home. It is a club that aligns with the values of our Coorparoo community. It has been at the centre of our community for nearly 100 years. It is a place where people play bowls, listen to music, debate social issues, raise money for charity, make friends, celebrate events and build community. The annual Coopers Cup barefoot bowls extravaganza draws hundreds of participants. One of my greatest achievements in life was winning the B-grade trophy with Tony, Aido and Geoff.

This is a club that supports our community. Stepping Stone Clubhouse, MND and Me Foundation and Parkinson's Queensland are just a few of the local charities it supports. This is a club that supports live music every single week. This is a club that has brought hundreds and thousands of people to the great game of bowls. This is a club that has so many competitive bowlers it has to select teams each week for interclub matches. This is a club that returns a profit every year. On every conceivable measure this club is a success and should be the pin-up club for Bowls Queensland.

Why, then, would I see reports in our community that Bowls Queensland, once again, wants to sell this property off to developers? Before anyone accuses me or our community of being NIMBYs, we support more housing and retirement living, but we should not achieve this by destroying this club. There are about 100 sites within a kilometre of this location where we could build units and retirement villages, and some are right next door to the club. This bowls club has already seen massive development happen around it. In fact, many of the bowlers and club patrons live in those new complexes and they want to see more of them in this area, just not on top of their bowling green. Bowls Queensland's mission statement states—

Doing bowls differently to connect more people with bowls in more ways—more often!

That is something that the Coorparoo Bowls Club does every single day. If it is true that the board of Bowls Queensland are even contemplating destroying this club for a bit of cheap financial gain, it would be truly appalling and they would be guilty of completely failing in their duties and their mission statement. The Coorparoo Bowls Club and the people of Coorparoo would rather work with Bowls Queensland to ensure the club remains viable into the future. If Bowls Queensland decide to put profits ahead of their sport, they will find a community ready to mobilise to stop them. We have done it before and we will do it again.

I say to any developer who is considering buying this property, 'Look elsewhere. Don't even consider it. There are better sites and you'll get my support.' I call on the minister to intervene to stop a peak sporting body from failing in their duties to grow and promote their sport. I say this to the board of

Bowls Queensland: the community will not sit back and let you destroy our community. I also say: we will work with you. That is our preferred course of action. Let's work together. Let's get people bowling. Let's build community together. Let's keep bowling in Coorparoo.