



Speech by  
**Ian Kaye**

**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

Hansard Wednesday, 30 May 2012

---

**MAIDEN SPEECH**

 **Mr KAYE** (Greenslopes—LNP) (8.13 pm): I rise in this place tonight as the newly elected member for Greenslopes. I pledge my allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in this diamond jubilee year and to Her Excellency the Governor of Queensland. I would also like to congratulate Madam Speaker on her election as Speaker of the House. I have no doubt that she will preside over the House with dignity and fairness to all.

To the Premier: congratulations on your fine example of leadership throughout the campaign and in government. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the immediate former member for Greenslopes and thank him for his service to public life. I also pay my respects to all previous members for Greenslopes. As has been mentioned, Bill Hewitt is in the House today.

To be elected is a great honour and not one that I will be taking lightly. I firmly believe that being elected to parliament is not a job that you ever actually get: you are merely the custodian of the position and servant to the people. If you think you actually have the job then perhaps you should not be here. Tonight I thank the people of Greenslopes for placing their trust in me.

The son of a mechanic and stay-at-home mum, I was raised in a loving, modest home in Mount Gravatt East, which is now part of the Greenslopes electorate. My father worked as a young mechanic at the government motor garage, which originally stood where the Parliamentary Annexe is today. My mother later returned to work in sales and the tourism industry. I attended two great schools in the Greenslopes electorate—Mount Gravatt State School and Mount Gravatt High School. My working life in the Greenslopes electorate dates back to 1985, when I commenced work at Coles Coorparoo near the Coorparoo Junction as a trolley boy. My family would also regularly go to Coorparoo Junction, then a busy shopping precinct, to shop at Myer, Coles or one of the other shops in that area.

After leaving high school I worked in the banking sector for two years, following which I commenced a 23-year career with the Queensland police force which saw 16 years of service on the south side of Brisbane, spending a lot of that time in the Greenslopes electorate, along with seven years as a single officer stationed in Western Queensland on the far boundary of the electorate of Southern Downs. My time out west provided me with a valuable insight into the challenges faced by our country cousins. I have resigned from the service to take up my seat in parliament. I made a decision in the Police Service that I wanted to remain operational. This meant sacrificing promotion and 23 years of shiftwork. To put that into perspective for the House, the honourable member for Lytton was born the year that I started working shiftwork.

My career in the Police Service has exposed me to many challenging situations along with interactions with members of the community from all walks of life, locations and cultural backgrounds. I have dealt with people in all kinds of situations, from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows and everything in between. I have worked with public servants from many other government departments including Health, Education, the Ambulance Service and the Fire and Rescue Service, to name but a few.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all of my former colleagues—the men and women of the Queensland Police Service—and pay tribute to them in the often thankless job that they do. In particular, I pay tribute to those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. It has been an honour to work alongside you. Over the time I served in the Queensland Police Service 15 officers were killed in the execution of their duties. Whilst there are many officers in the service, I had the great privilege of knowing four of these brave officers. It is a timely reminder with the 12-month anniversary of Senior Constable Damian Leeding's tragic death, which other members have also spoken about in this House.

I also have a long history of volunteering at events like Expo 88 with groups such as the Rural Fire Brigade and the State Emergency Service and am a current member of the Lions Club International. I would like to pay a special tribute to all Lions members, in particular the Holland Park Lions Club for their work with the flood victims last year in Brisbane. As a member of this club, I saw the tireless work and compassion that went into assisting people in the Yeronga and Fairfield area coordinated by Lion David Floyd.

My experiences within the Queensland Police Service and my community involvement are what have led me to be standing in this place today. I saw an ever-increasing frustration among staff of government departments that they could be doing things better. I saw firsthand the massive amount of waste occurring within government. I realised the only place that I would be able to truly make a difference and be part of the necessary change was in this House. I only wish every member here could have walked in my or any other police officer's shoes and have seen what we have seen. Every Queenslanders has the right to feel safe.

I would like to share with the House just one of the many experiences which helped drive me to contest the election for the seat of Greenslopes. In 2011 I had the need to convey a young person suffering a mental illness to a local hospital. This happened on a Tuesday night at about 7.30. There was nothing spectacular about this Tuesday night. There was no known or expected reason for this hospital in an Australian capital city to be busy. We arrived to observe about 10 ambulances ramped. We walked inside and, after speaking with triage staff who were extremely busy—and, I might add, frustrated—we stood at the counter. Due to a lack of beds our patient slept on the floor under a blanket. We continued to stand there until about 11 pm, when we were relieved by our night work crew. That night work crew then stood at the same place until 1.30 the next morning with our patient still sleeping on the floor under the blanket. Finally, a bed became available. I am not for one minute criticising the staff at that hospital. In fact, it is quite the opposite. They, despite the conditions that they were working under, were doing exceptionally well. It was not their fault. The system had let them down; the previous Labor government had let them down.

This one example also highlights the domino effect of a broken system—the impact on the patient, the impact on hospital staff, police officers kept from other duties, ambulances ramped preventing ambulance officers tending to more patients and ultimately people's lives put at risk. When you are involved personally in situations like that, you know that the system is broken and needs to be fixed. Sadly, I could talk for hours of similar stories.

I now turn my attention to the electorate of Greenslopes. Greenslopes, nestled on the south side of Brisbane—and, for the benefit of members of the House, the best side of Brisbane—covers the complete suburbs of Holland Park and Holland Park West, and it covers parts of the suburbs of Mount Gravatt East, Mount Gravatt, Greenslopes, Coorparoo, Camp Hill and Norman Park. At last count, 30,178 people resided within the Greenslopes electorate. There are many wonderful state and independent schools, terrific kindergartens and day care centres and active community groups within the electorate. To the many teachers, support staff, early childhood workers and volunteers, I say thank you for your dedication and hard work.

There are several great sporting clubs servicing the electorate, including numerous bowls clubs, Coorparoo junior Australian rules, Easts Rugby Union, Easts junior rugby league, the Holland Park Hawks, the Metropolitan Districts Netball Association in Coorparoo, the Brisbane touch association at Whites Hill and the Easts Leagues Club to name a few. Community spirit is alive and well in Greenslopes. We must also, however, do our utmost to support community groups and local sporting clubs to ensure that they survive to serve generations to come. These groups are a part of the backbone of our community and provide an important role in bringing people together. I commit to supporting these groups wherever I can. This includes scouting—an organisation which plays an important role in providing tremendous skills to our children and young people. I attended Chester Estate Scouts, which has now moved out of the electorate of Greenslopes. However, we still have Majestic Park scouts, which is one of the largest groups in the state, along with the Victor Street scouts providing this valuable community service.

Greenslopes residents come from many different cultural backgrounds from all around the world. The multicultural history of Greenslopes goes back many years, with one example being the Holland Park mosque, the oldest mosque in Queensland, founded in 1908. Many young families are once again moving

into the Greenslopes electorate. I will work in partnership with local government to preserve and improve parks and green space to provide an atmosphere that people want to live in and raise a family in. With the increase in higher density living, these areas are even more vital. I am also committed to keeping new constructions in line with existing neighbourhoods to preserve the appearance and lifestyle of our suburbs.

I would now like to talk about several issues within the Greenslopes electorate. It is common knowledge that the Eastern Busway has not progressed past Main Avenue at Coorparoo. As early as 2007, residents and businesses within the Coorparoo Junction area and surrounds were desperately seeking information on what the future held. Today, those questions are still being asked. I will be fighting hard to provide certainty to the residents and business along the Eastern Busway route so they know once and for all what lies ahead.

The same can be said for what some are referring to as the mythical transit oriented development at Coorparoo Junction. Under the previous government, businesses in the Coorparoo area found it extremely difficult and frustrating when attempting to get information on the status of that project. Businesses have been affected, people's health has been affected and jobs have been affected. I am determined to provide clarity in what is happening with that development so again people can get on with their lives and plan for the future. I look forward to briefing interested parties in the near future.

The railway crossing at the end of Cavendish Road, Coorparoo, featured heavily as an issue whilst I was doorknocking during both the 2009 and 2012 campaigns. This crossing has been spoken about for many, many years. What I will say is that I think it is time for that crossing to be looked at again. There have been accidents, there have been lives lost over the years, and there is disruption to traffic. I will investigate what options there are for segregation of rail, pedestrian and road traffic. I will say this: my preferred option is one that would not impact on businesses nor require resumptions of homes or businesses.

Another area in which I am keen to see improvements within the Greenslopes electorate is safety around schools. Our children are our future, and I fully support the government's program to progressively roll out flashing school zone lights. In fact, I was pleased to announce in the lead-up to the March election that these lights would be installed on busy Cavendish Road outside the Cavendish Road High School. This particular school zone caters for a large number of school students and high traffic volume, making it an ideal location for such an initiative.

With my background in law enforcement, I have an intimate knowledge of the requirements of front-line policing in suburban stations. I am determined to fight for more front-line police at local stations and I welcome our government's announcement of 1,300 more police over the next four years.

The rising cost of living has hurt Queensland families, and the people of the Greenslopes electorate are no different. I will be working hard as part of this LNP government to cut the waste within government that I have seen firsthand. Through our election commitments, we will deliver real savings to the people of Greenslopes and Queensland.

The Greenslopes electorate contains a high number of small businesses. These businesses, which people put their heart, soul and financial future into, are vital to the prosperity of the electorate and the state, and they have been doing it tough. Red tape, rising costs and challenging economic conditions have played havoc with their bottom line. I will do my part by supporting reforms in government to reduce red tape and encourage economic growth to assist small business.

Lastly, I am determined to improve front-line service delivery for the people of Greenslopes. I will be fighting for more police, fire and ambulance officers. I will fight for more teachers, doctors and nurses. In addition, we need to get our front-line people back to doing what they are supposed to be doing—serving the people of Queensland. I have seen too many decent, hardworking public servants frustrated at simply not being able to do their job, tied up in bureaucratic red tape. They have also lived under a culture of fear, afraid to speak out against what is wrong for fear of retribution. We in this LNP government will bring positive change to Queensland.

It is now time for me to thank the many people who have helped me in my journey to this place. My campaign team has stood by me over the past 3½ years through what has been a very long and unusual campaign. Thanks go to my campaign manager, Matt Tapsall. Words cannot express the gratitude and respect I have for you. Similar thanks go to the members of my campaign team—Matthew, Ross, Dan, Nick and Haaki. Haaki is with me today. In thanking those people, I must also acknowledge the impact such a long campaign had on their family and social life, and I thank their families accordingly. I also acknowledge the Greenslopes SEC and all the branches within the Greenslopes electorate and the hard work that they have done.

To the Premier and Treasurer, your assistance to my campaign certainly was a major contributing factor to our success in Greenslopes. We were really up against the might of the Labor machine in a seat which, quite frankly, Labor did not expect to lose. Other very special thanks must go to the Hon. Don Cameron AM, former federal member for Griffith, Fadden and Moreton, and his wife, Lila. Don continued to

work even though his health was failing. I thank you, Don, for your help and your wisdom developed over many successful campaigns within the federal arena. I am truly pleased that your health is slowly returning. I would also like to extend a thank you to William 'Bill' Hewitt, the former member for Chatsworth and Greenslopes, former chairman of committees and former minister, who also helped both physically and with his advice. Thank you, Bill.

Thanks also go to Councillor Ian McKenzie of the Holland Park ward and his wife, Josie, for their efforts in supporting me. I think people have forgotten the impact that the delay of the state election had on our local government elections. I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Councillor McKenzie on his decisive win.

I also thank Senator George Brandis SC and Deputy Mayor Adrian Schrinner for their support along the way. To the LNP HQ—in particular, Bruce McIver, Gary Spence, Michael O'Dwyer, James McGrath, Matt McEachan and Mitch Redford—the disciplined, professional, positive campaign that you orchestrated is a lesson to all in politics.

To the many members of the LNP and the many community members who stepped up before and during the campaign, I say thank you. My thanks go to those who helped and were not members of the LNP. They are the people who were no longer prepared to sit on the sidelines; they desperately wanted a change of government. To the members of the Young LNP, I say thank you. Your energy and commitment was a credit to you all. A point of note in the campaign for me was when members of the Labor Party openly said they were voting for me and the LNP. I realise that this was not an easy decision for them. I acknowledge that and I will work hard to earn their trust.

I will be working hard for all members of the community, no matter who they voted for. There are two attributes that make a good police officer, and they are common sense and the ability to talk to people. I believe that these attributes are also applicable to being a good local member. As everyone in this place will testify—as some have already said—the impact of running for public office on your family is considerable. With that in mind, to my wife, Louise, and my children, Johanna and Liam, I thank you for your love, support and, just as importantly, your understanding—and for also turning up tonight when I did not know you were coming! It is very easy to neglect your family in this occupation and all of us in this House should put time aside to spend with our families. This is vitally important.

I want to sincerely thank my parents, Don and Roslyn—who I also did not know were coming—for their love and tireless work, including lengthy periods of babysitting and driving children to and from school. To my sister, Lyn, who even made a trip from Sydney to assist, thank you. Thanks to my brother, David, for his long-distance pieces of advice—whether I wanted them or not! To my parents-in-law, Jake and Cathy Gillam, I say thank you for your love and assistance, not to mention allowing me to marry your daughter. Thanks also to Rollie, Shaun, Mark and Tanya, Jason and Sonya, Murray, Bob and Jocelyn, Althea and Sharon along with other dear friends. You know who you are.

To my electorate office staff, you have done a sensational job in catching up on the workload and getting the office up and running in what has been a challenging time for all. I want to acknowledge all of my grandparents for their contributions to who I am today. Perhaps my biggest fan was my grandmother Eunice Bowmaker. Her love, support and faith in me throughout all of my life played a big part in the fact that I stand up here today. Her tireless volunteer work, which she only gave up at the young age of 100, was an inspiration to all who knew her. Unfortunately, Eunice did not get to see me elected, having passed away on Christmas Day last year at the age of 102. I am sure she is watching. Finally, I want to say that I see my future in this House, no matter how long, to be a continuation of my service to the people of Queensland. I do promise to respect the people of Greenslopes and Queensland and serve faithfully, transparently and honestly. I thank the House.