



Speech by


## Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA

Hansard Thursday, 14 February 2013

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### SEAFOOD INDUSTRY

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Mundingburra—LNP) (Minister for Local Government, Community Recovery and Resilience) (2.44 pm): I rise in the next phase of my journey to try to do a good deed for our seafood industry in this state—that is to push, in this place, the opportunity to properly label seafood in our takeaway stores in Queensland. This is something that I believe is a win-win situation and can actually do some good for those hardworking people who have to compete with cheap imports. It is also an opportunity for consumers to know what it is they are eating.

In a country of this size with such a vast land mass and such a small population we will never be able to ban imports. It just would not be fair to our farmers. What we can do is give information to consumers so they can make an informed choice. If faced with a choice between a beautiful fresh piece of North Queensland barramundi or something farmed in substandard conditions overseas, I know which one—

**Mr Johnson** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** No. I try to steer clear of the member for Gregory when I am out that way. He can be a bit cheeky and lead me astray.

**Mr JOHNSON:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. Did he infer that I am a yellow belly?

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Cunningham): Order! Member for Gregory, I am sure he did not. I call the minister.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It is wonderful to be interjected on by someone who does have a true love for the land.

I know how passionate my part of the world is for this. They have seen what has happened to our seafood industry. It has been under siege. Those in it have been painted as some sort of mob of villains when the truth is that they have done some great work in terms of reaching that environmental stewardship that they pride themselves on.

I went to my constituents the other day and asked whether or not they would be prepared to pay an extra dollar at their local fish and chip shop if they could be guaranteed that it was fresh Australian fish. I had 100 per cent of people agree with that statement.

I believe we have an opportunity in this place to do some good and to push for laws to be put in place in this regard. I have formally written to the health minister about this. It is something that I intend to campaign on. I do not see this as red tape. It is more a piece of white chalk. It is a simple case of clearly defining whether a person supports the local industry or indeed takes the cheaper product.

It can be done. It has been done successfully in the Northern Territory. There is a campaign underway in South Australia at the moment to do just this. I think that we should beat them to the punch. I think if a state can benefit it is this one. If any region can it is my part of the world. I think we owe it to consumers to give them all of the knowledge to make an informed choice. I think we owe it to an industry under siege to support our fellow regional Queenslanders.