


Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Broadwater Electorate

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.56 pm): I want to make a brief contribution on what has clearly been the most important issue raised by my constituents in the first few months I have had the great privilege of being their representative. It will come as no surprise, based on the name of the electorate, but it is far and away the Broadwater that is dominating cause for concern—and great admiration—for many residents.

I want to start by acknowledging the great relationship that we have formed with the staff at the Gold Coast Waterways Authority. They have been very responsive to the issues that we have raised. I want to particularly thank CEO Hal Morris and his troops. It is great that the minister is in the chamber because it is an area under his jurisdiction and I am most keen for him to assist in the weeks, months and years ahead to make sure that we can get the most out of what I think is an incredibly beautiful section of open water. I have said it before, but I truly believe that that section of water—that magical Broadwater—can be to our tourism what the harbour is to Sydney and the laneways are to Melbourne. It is a beautiful, magical point of difference, but we need to do more.

If I had to list the few issues that far and away outweigh all others, it would be these. The first one is dredging. People want to see more frequent dredging. Access in and out of there is becoming problematic. There is some money that has been set aside for dredging in the area around Paradise Point. I want to see that come to fruition and I want to see that ongoing. To those who say that dredging is somehow environmentally unsustainable, I say it is not true. It can be done in a sustainable way. That has been proved for many years. I want to see that continue so that people—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take that interjection. I want to see that continue so that people can enjoy this beautiful area. Boating is a huge part of our lifestyle.

The second issue is around speed and signage. We want to see better signage. We want to have the speed limits understood and enforced.

The third issue, and probably the one that has been raised the most, relates to houseboats in that area. There are rules in place, but the rules are either not strong enough or they are being flouted. One way or another, something needs to be done. I believe the solution is to make sure that we have a single point of authority and accountability. I think that should be the Gold Coast Waterways Authority so that there is no buck-passing—no saying, 'This is for the water police,' 'This belongs to Fisheries,' 'This is for the council.' There needs to be one single point of authority.

We should not have a situation where we have people living on boats full-time and moving around to flout the laws. There are people with fowls on boats. There are people who are doing nothing with waste. That is a real environmental issue. I would like to see this House take action on it.