




Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**

**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL; APPROPRIATION BILL; REVENUE  
LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; BETTING TAX BILL**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (4.29 pm): Five new taxes, spiralling debt, unemployment on the rise, falling service standards despite record expenditure. I will make my contribution today in three parts: firstly as a Queenslander, then as a shadow minister and finally as a local member of parliament. In Queensland we do not have a revenue problem; we have a spending problem. The five new taxes are an admission of failure. It is an admission of failure by a government that has not been able to do the basics right. I will discuss these five new taxes and the one I wish to make the longest contribution about, which is the waste tax—not an environmental initiative but a big money grab—I will make in the second part of my speech.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I do not need to be protected. I am quite comfortable. I will save my contribution on the waste tax for when I address the budget as a shadow minister.

Let me begin with the wagering tax, a \$367 million grab, but, worst of all, set at a rate that will make us uncompetitive. If you believe in competitive federalism, if you believe there is a role for you in this House as legislators, surely you want your state to be competitive. When the state beside you is 50 per cent lower and Victoria is nearly half the rate, you know something is wrong. The land tax was a \$311 million attack on the property industry delivered at two minutes to midnight before the election.

Those opposite will see it and say, 'Well, this is an attack on those wretched developers.' It is an attack on the young bloke who just wants to put a hard hat on and go to work and be able to go home and say to his family that he has done a decent day's work. Unfortunately, in a world where people make decisions based on margins, based on certainty, based on mobile workforces—they can make them across the globe; they certainly can make them across Australia—if you make yourself uncompetitive that investment will walk across the border and with it walks the job for that young bloke with the hard hat.

The property investor tax will raise \$132 million right at the time when the market is softening. When everybody is wondering where the next wave of investment is going to come from, at a time when the property industry is deeply concerned about the year ahead, we go and signal an attack on them with another tax. Then there is the car stamp duty to raise \$100 million. Those opposite will say, 'Well, this is just a bit of a grab at that wealthy dealer or that person who just wants to drive a Porsche.'

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I will take that interjection. What about the young girl who just wants to move a spanner around in a workshop, who just wants her first apprenticeship?

**A government member:** Do you think she is driving a Porsche?

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** She works on a Porsche, Minister. She is a young apprentice and she turns up and all she wants to know is that someone on that side of the House cares about her future. Under the guise of attacking the wealthy, that young girl may not have a job. I would cop these new taxes if we were making a little bit of an inroad into the debt, but it is going to hit \$83 billion and those opposite have given up trying. We lost a AAA credit rating in this state in about 2009 and I can remember collectively what that did to our reputation and to the way we felt as Queenslanders. We have given up even dreaming about getting it back. Somehow we are clawing on to AA-plus as though that is the zenith of where we are going to reach. We have given up.

We have five new taxes and debt continues to increase. It is \$83 billion. For those opposite it probably just rolls off the tongue. Let me break that down. That is \$3.7 billion a year. Still too big to grasp? That is \$71 million per week. That is getting a little closer to understanding, but here we go, that is over \$400,000 per hour. I ask every one of the 93 members in here, I ask those everyday people, what could \$400,000 per hour that is being spent on interest repayments do in their community? What would happen if the AA-plus rating gets further downgraded and that \$400,000 clocks up? What then?

**Mr Perrett:** Interest rates go up.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Interest rates go up, as the member for Gympie says. All of a sudden the spiral gets worse and worse and you keep going down. We have given up on talking about debt. We talk about this being a budget where we are funding infrastructure. The level of expenditure on infrastructure is going back to what it has traditionally been. It is going back to a time when we actually built things in this state, but here is the difference: if you judge the record of what is budgeted and what is actually spent that is where there is a real discrepancy. If we do nothing else in this House—all of us: those who are ministers who are responsible for departments and those who sit on the other side of the chamber who are there to hold the government to account—we must ensure that what is allocated in the budget actually gets spent because otherwise Queenslanders are taxed for things they will never benefit from.

We hear about record Health spending and yet one in five people in an ambulance is not seen within 30 minutes. Again we are talking about ambulance ramping in this state, a term which disappeared from our vocabulary a few years ago. It had been fixed. When the opposition leader stands up and talks about an innovative approach to try to fill a void by working with the private sector, she gets pilloried for it by those opposite. There were some absurd claims.

The most absurd was today in question time, when the member for Maryborough said that because he does not have a private hospital in his electorate somehow that does not make sense. Might I suggest that some of the constituents he represents in fact go to private hospitals in Hervey Bay. Might I suggest that some of his constituents get treated in the public system in Hervey Bay and this might relieve some pressure. Might I suggest that the opposition leader was not talking about doing away with funding for public hospitals; she was talking about a way of partnering with the private sector to reduce waiting times, which is what good governments do. It is what we exist to do.

I will move into my role as a shadow minister and talk about the waste levy. When those opposite say, 'We took our taxes to the election. We said what taxes we would be ramping up,' there is a little asterisk there that says 'at 10.30 on Thursday night after the blackout'. If you say it really quickly it is like an episode of *The Simpsons*: it all flows really well. Once the blackout had occurred they said, 'There's four new taxes,' but they did not even have the ticker then to talk about the waste levy.

Let me give members some numbers in relation to the waste levy. In the last two months we were told the waste levy was designed to stop interstate waste—little asterisk: there are only about four or five dumps in one city taking it which we could have fixed in a heartbeat without a very big tax. When that did not float it was because China was no longer taking our recycling. That did not float. Then it was to stop Ipswich stopping the services. They reversed it so that did not work. Finally they came up with the one that might actually float and that is to fund recycling programs.

As much as I think things like that could probably be funded by everyday government revenue in a state that is one of the highest taxing in the nation, I would cop a big waste tax if it really did fund recycling initiatives. However, to give the House a number, over the next four years the waste levy will gouge \$1.3 billion out of the Queensland economy and return \$100 million in recycling initiatives—that is, \$100 million out of a \$1.3 billion tax grab. Today I am not even going to go into how the figure of \$1.3 billion was arrived at. Either there are some interesting funding calculations or it might be a little larger than \$70 a tonne.

The costs outlined in the budget documents are all over the place in different departments. My good friend the member for Buderim and I spent some time trawling through the documents. About \$418 million goes to councils, there is about \$40 million in operational costs and there is \$100 million

for the resource recovery. I think that the big winner in that equation is a line item called 'consolidated revenue'. When you have a minister who does not have either the political capital or the intestinal fortitude to stand up to the Deputy Premier, it will be business as usual.

I will quote what the industry sector has had to say. Some excellent contributions have been made, including by Shane Rodgers from the Australian Industry Group, who said it was 'a new tax on business in the state dressed up as an environmental initiative'. Councillor Mark Jamieson, the President of the LGAQ, said 'we are on the side of local communities, who have said loud and clear that they want to see the waste levy money drive innovation not go back into general Treasury coffers'.

I have only four minutes remaining, so I will make a brief contribution on tourism before talking about my electorate of Broadwater. In tourism, our market share is sliding. What I offer my ministerial colleague is an approach from this side of the House whereby we will support what is right. We will back ecotourism. We will back adventure tourism. I urge the government to find every way within their budgets to return the stability for the sovereign risk that now exists because of some of the projects that they have pulled. Governments can put forward all sorts of programs, but they get judged by their actions and not by line items in budgets. Therefore, I was disappointed to see no individual funding for a dive site on the Gold Coast. I live in hope of seeing that, because it is a good niche and would add to the Gold Coast tourism offering. I would like to see the government follow the council's lead. Let us work with the federal government and make it happen.

As the local member for Broadwater, I live in an established area of the coast. We certainly do not have the growing pains that my neighbour and good friend the member for Coomera has. However, each and every day we feel the pressures of the M1. I ask the government to stop playing games. No-one cares about their blue with Malcolm Turnbull. They would have a little bit more credibility if they said that Bill Shorten's offering, which is the same dollar-for-dollar offering, was also a stinker. If they said that, they would have one ounce of credibility. The fact that they will not say it shows that the whole debate is a fraudulent one that is based on the fact that they do not want to build the road. They need to get on with building it and, at the same time, get on with building the parallel motorway. Both are needed. If they build it, the great City of Gold Coast will reach its full potential, because at the moment the M1 is choking the lifeblood out of the city.

On the local front, in my electorate only one road project is funded. It is great that the Minister for Transport is in the House today. The one road project we have is the duplication of the Jabiru Island bridge. Some years ago there was a fatality there. There was a bit of action and a lot of talk, but the bridge has not been delivered. I would like to work with the minister and his department to deliver that.

My final contribution is about schools. I was delighted to see the commitment from the Leader of the Opposition to air-condition schools. There are only three schools in my electorate. I have to say that the demountable classrooms at Biggera Waters State School and Coombabah State School are not fitting for a beautiful city and beautiful, proud schools. Those classrooms were brought in on the backs of trucks decades ago. They do not have air conditioning, they do not have heating and, in one case, there was asbestos until we made enough noise to have it removed. Those classrooms need to be updated and replaced. I will continue to advocate for that.