




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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**REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL; APPROPRIATION
(PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 2); AND APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 2)**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.19 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the omnibus bills, but before I speak about the economic provisions I want to talk about the changes to the ability to capture and prohibit substances like turbo yeast to make homemade alcohol. I do so because everyone in this House owes it to our first nation communities—and there are nine discussed in this bill—to do better. No matter how we dress it up, we need to do better through tough enforcement but also through aspiration, hope, the opportunity to get a job and the opportunity to own a home. Unless we can get to a situation where people in Aboriginal communities have that aspiration, everything that we do in this place will only ever tinker at the edges. People deserve the right to be able to earn a living and to come home at the end of the day, sit on their patio, have a drink and relax.

Whilst I support the decision to ensure that things like turbo yeast are captured, there are two elements missing in this and they are both around enforcement. Firstly, there is a real issue with sly grogging in these communities. If we do not address the fact that prohibition has created an underground economy where people are spending an exorbitant amount of their wage each and every week to buy a box of beer, we are kidding ourselves. There is a more sinister thing happening in these Indigenous communities, and that is the rise of ice. It is cheap, it is easy to access and it is ripping the heart out of these communities in the same way it is ripping the heart out of communities like the member for Burdekin and the member for Whitsunday represent. Those little communities, which were once happy and thriving places, are in the grip of ice. Unless we address the elephant in the room and the need for enforcement around sly grogging and ice in these communities, let me tell you that dealing with turbo yeast ain't going to turbocharge the effort to improve these Indigenous communities.

I will now turn to the economic elements of the Appropriation Bill (No. 2) that are part of these omnibus bills, which I would have loved the opportunity to debate separately. We are here being asked to approve half a billion dollars in unforeseen expenditure. I guess that is better than what has been asked for in recent budgets. When you think that in the last few years unforeseen expenditure has been in the order of \$3 billion, you start to ask yourself how well the state's finances are being managed, because it is undeniable that the economy is worse off. It is undeniable that debt has risen. It is undeniable that the interest repayments on our debt will reach about \$10 million per day. That was an excellent contribution from the member for Toowoomba North. Think about what that could do in each of your communities. It does not matter which side of the House you are on: think about what \$10 million could get your community, what opportunities it could bring. Think about that.

This tale of woe, of rising debt and interest rates, has not come at a time when we have built incredible infrastructure. We have a situation where Labor governments in this state have sold assets and somehow managed to end up in a worse economic position. It almost seems unbelievable that we could even be discussing it. Normally if assets are sold you would expect new worthwhile infrastructure to be built or you would expect debt to come down, but when you are selling assets to pay for operational expenditure the death spiral continues. Do not take the word of a politician: take the word of Sensus,

CCIQ Pulse Survey and CommSec. It is interesting because the CommSec State of the States report was something that those opposite would always quote whenever it suited their agenda, yet now they seek to discredit an independent body portraying the state of Queensland's finances as they see fit. It manifests itself in the big one: the rating from Standard & Poor's. I ask the Deputy Premier: is it more likely that our next rating change will be back to where we belong at AAA, or is it more likely that we will slide again? The latter will see that \$10 million a day figure increase again, and there the spiral continues.

I want to touch on some of the contributions that were made and I will start with the member for Gladstone, who sought to rewrite history regarding the sale of assets. I will lump in with that the member for Miller, who said, 'We take it to the people and seek their mandate.' I will make two points about that. First, the asset sales of the LNP to which the member for Miller refers were taken to an election. The case was outlined, the result was put on the table and it never happened. In contrast, we can go right back to Sun Retail, but the one that my dad always talks about was in 2007—Golden Casket. Somehow that was symbolic. That one meant something, particularly to the bush, because they had seen it as a way of them getting a little bit back from their government. It went all the way through: QR was not for sale and then it was hocked off; it was forestry, it was ports and it was airports. Please, member for Miller and member for Gladstone, do not come in here talking about asset sales because there has only been one side that has done it, and we will remind you of it every single minute of every single day.

Then there was the member for Redlands, who came in here and rattled off figures as though somehow saying big numbers really quickly means something to the everyday person. Let me tell you what means something to the everyday person: the ability to pick up a phone and know that there are more coppers at your local station or the ability to have your loved ones in an ambulance and know that when they turn up at a hospital they are not going to be sitting there waiting like they are at a buffet.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: The words 'learn a lesson' have just been thrown across the chamber. I said no more than three minutes ago that a position on asset sales was openly and transparently taken to the people, it was rejected and the trust was not breached. I have not even had the chance to talk about the five new taxes, four of which were announced at one minute to midnight and the other in response to a crisis of interstate dumping: 'We are going to tax everybody right across Queensland.'

The change in economic position under the watch of the Treasurer has not been a good one. The vision for a better Queensland is not prevalent. Had it not been for a surge in income from resources, which she rails against in her electorate, the state of Queensland would be far worse.