



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 14 November 2018

**MOTION**

**Shark Control Program, Inquiry**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.49 pm): Imagine a Queensland where every Queenslander was treated equally. Imagine a Queensland where the government took seriously their primary duty to keep the community safe. I am going to table this map because it shows very clearly why the people of the Whitsundays deserve more action than an education campaign, more action than signage and more action than another study.

*Tabled paper:* Liberal National Party map, undated, titled 'Queensland's Shark Control Program' [1899](#).

The Whitsundays are unlike most other communities from Cairns to the Gold Coast, which have had a level of protection dating back over half a century. Over 400 shark protection devices, whether it be nets or drum lines, protect communities represented by both sides of politics. The people of the Whitsundays want the same thing not just in Cid Harbour but also on beaches, where industry relies on goodwill, reputation and protection. For the minister to stand up and quote science as the reason for not putting these in is really duplicitous, because the same science that allows them to protect residents right up and down the Queensland coast should be applied to the people of the Whitsundays.

I also want to briefly pull up the minister, who somehow accused me of making personal attacks on her because I questioned her 'vision' and follow-through on this issue. That is not a personal attack; that is the art of accountability. Let me contrast that with someone who calls somebody a 'big mouth' and a 'big kahuna'—somebody who on the floor of estimates called me 'mate' and the member for Burleigh 'dari'. Let us stop all this fake outrage when someone is held to account, because talking about a lack of vision, a lack detail or a lack of follow-through is respectful debate. I will never engage in personal attacks.

While I am holding people to account, may I ask the members for Cairns and Barron River to go back to their communities and tell them that science is under threat in this House. I encourage the members for Townsville and Thuringowa to go back to their communities, where there are 50 shark control devices that have provided protection for that community for many years. The member for Keppel stood up and gave the most incredible performance. While I am calling members to task, can I say to the member for Redlands that your contribution—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, member for Broadwater.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I found the member for Redlands' contribution about a member who was absent for a day appalling, and the member for Mackay followed up. If they feel no great connection to the member for Whitsunday's electorate, may I suggest to them that he continues to prove them wrong time and time again.

**Mr Whiting:** What about my contribution?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Bancroft, that was a somewhat unusual interjection.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I thank whoever that was.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry, member for Broadwater, it is members to my left who are not allowing you to have the call again.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** The absurdity of all of this is that, for some reason, after a non-lethal attack the government acted to put drum lines in and the science will show that it was effective, yet after a lethal attack they will not act. Let me surmise what may have happened. There may have been a conversation where some groups of very hard-line environmentalists said they would campaign ferociously if more of these went in, so a deal has been done. Despite the community needing protection, they will put politics over people. It sounds a lot like that.

The minister asked why I would want to be at that round table. I would have loved to put across the point of view that I was given when I spoke to business owners in cafes and restaurants in the Whitsundays, the local member and the local community. Do you know what they said? 'I do not know a great deal about science, but I do know about a community vibe. My community wants the same level of protection as everywhere else, and we need a circuit-breaker now.'

*(Time expired)*