




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.37 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the *Consideration of the Auditor-General's report 1: 2017-18—Follow-up of report 15: 2013-14 environmental regulation of the resources and waste industries*. I start by thanking the committee for their work on this. I should place on the record my thanks to the member for Stretton, who has allowed me to address this committee in the past at some of its roadshows—

Mr Lister: He wants to be in one.

Mr CRISAFULLI: No, he is here—albeit not related to this, but this is my first opportunity in this forum to thank him for that. I will not thank him for his previous contribution. It was probably a little bit confusing. I will thank him very much for his great assistance to me at that time. I also thank the deputy chair, who I think has raised a valid concern when it comes to waste in that part of the world that he ably represents.

In terms of the report, I acknowledge the comments of the Auditor-General and welcome the positive nature across many of the recommendations. I will make a brief observation about those superseded recommendations that we discussed yesterday as part of the passing of the bill that we discussed. The LNP proudly supported that legislation. We were very happy to do that. We spoke out when we saw shortcomings in it. What I will say in relation to these recommendations, as I did yesterday, is that all the recommendations in the world and all of the legislation in the world are not worth the paper they are written on if the intent is not there to do something about it. I use this opportunity again to talk about the Baal Gammon Mine in Watsonville near Herberton which is—

Ms Enoch interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Minister, I appreciate your interest in dealing with the problem and if you do I will—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The member needs to speak through the chair.

Mr CRISAFULLI: If the minister deals with it, I will be the first to stand up and congratulate the minister because I am certain the minister, as someone who has a genuine interest in the environment, wants to see that rehabilitated. The issue is that the minister has to give firm and clear leadership to the department to make sure that occurs. That is what good governance is about.

I will continue to say that we have an issue in this state when it comes to holding people to account for their actions in terms of rehabilitation. We have an issue in this state when it comes to making an assessment on fit and proper people to whom we give licences to operate mines. We know the due diligence process is not working when we cannot list the times that we find somebody not to be a suitable operator. More has to be done on that, because otherwise we will continue to have to pick up the pieces. All of the legislation will not be able to fix that unless there is genuine intent and a laser-like focus in making sure that the right people are operating in the state.

In closing, I again thank the committee for its work on this. I thank the Auditor-General for looking into it. It is, indeed, an important issue. Those of us on this side of the House want to see thriving resources and waste industries, but we want to see it on a long-term basis that is sustainable, that is efficient and that makes sure the jobs people rightly rely on in both of these two vital industries do not come at the expense of a thriving and healthy environment. I do believe that balance can be struck, but that balance can only be struck with the right legislation, the right regulation and the right attitude from those who are tasked with the very special honour of ensuring that the balance between environmental regulation and resource and waste jobs can be met.