




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 27 February 2019

MOTION

State Schools, Air Conditioning

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.41 pm): Leadership is about having a vision, about having a vision to create a legacy, about doing things not for political reasons but because they are right; about doing things—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Cooper. I have just called the House to order.

Mr CRISAFULLI:—that will be the right thing not just for next year but also for years to come. What the Leader of the Opposition did in her budget reply speech was announce a policy that is right, that is visionary, that is costed and that will be delivered over two terms of government. That is what people are yearning for in this state, an end to the kind of politics where things get brought in only to create wedges, only about division and only about politics. This is about kids; it is about doing the right thing for our kids and our grandkids and creating a legacy in this state.

Let me tell honourable members about the two state schools in my electorate. I only have two schools in my electorate, but they are proud schools. They are really proud schools. They are led by two great principals, Val Faulks from Biggera Waters and Murray Gleadhill at Coombabah. Let me tell honourable members about those schools. Coombabah has one air conditioner in the entire school. One! Biggera Waters State School has two: the library and the science centre. That is it. There are buildings at that school that were delivered on the back of a truck in the 1970s. If members opposite mean to tell me that those demountables without any form of climate control are fair and reasonable in the year 2019, we are failing. They are like freezers in the winter and furnaces in the summer; they are not a place where I would want my kids to learn. As a result, I will stand up and back this because it makes sense.

Ms Jones: Take them back to Townsville.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Even with the shrill comments coming from opposite, I will say that our kids deserve so much better than what they have.

We have heard a lot in this place today about rights. I will tell honourable members about some rights. We have a right to have air conditioning, and it is on. The people who serve—the public servants—have a right to have air conditioning, and they have it. Those in jail have a right—

An honourable member: Prisoners.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Those prisoners have air conditioning, yet somehow those opposite come in here and suggest that a policy, that a visionary policy, to be delivered over two terms of government is not right, and that is a disgrace. We hear a lot about climate change in this place, so let me respond to

what the Premier says every time. I believe in climate change. I sure do. Doesn't that make this policy so much more sensible? In a climate that is warming, is it not fair and reasonable that our kids should have a right to have their schools air-conditioned? My neighbour the member for Bonney and I share Coombabah State High School. There is barely a handful of air conditioners. Labrador State School—less than half. Are you going to go and tell those kids that they do not deserve it?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, you will direct your comments through the chair.

Government members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We hear about cost. Those opposite are yelling about cost.

A government member: It is important.

Mr CRISAFULLI: It is important. In the last 12 months the royalties from coal have increased in this state by nearly a billion dollars. We are talking about a policy that will cost a couple of hundred million dollars a year, yet somehow those opposite will tell us that almost a fifth of the royalties for something they rail against day in day out is not worth spending on their kids.

I will conclude my comments by saying the following. If those opposite vote against this, they should go back to their electorate and tell their constituents why they voted against it. This motion is not about wedge politics, it is not about ideology; it is about our children and it is worth backing.

(Time expired)