



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2019

**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Chiba Park, Flying Foxes**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.48 pm): I rise to make an impassioned plea for some of my residents who are going through a living hell at the moment. I refer to the residents and students of nearby Coombabah primary who are living near Chiba Park. The flying fox colony that has infested that park is causing their life to be compromised in a way like never before. It was only a few years ago that the bats were not there, but they have moved in and they have moved in in plague proportions. I ask for action. This does not need legislative change; it needs cultural change. It needs an attitude from the department of environment to put families before flying foxes and babies before bats. This is something that is happening across-the-board.

Tim Robson from the Gold Coast City Council has been excellent, and I put on the record his willingness to work with us. Just like I saw in Warwick when I was with the member for Southern Downs the other day, this is a problem that goes beyond council. It needs cultural change from the state to put people before bats. I have seen it successfully done. In front of me is my good friend the member for Glass House. When he was the environment minister we were able to have some success in the Scenic Rim by moving them, working with council in a beautiful little town called Boonah. I am not advocating lethal means. I am advocating action that puts people before bats—whether that be lights, noise, smoke or sensible tree pruning. If you do that, it gets the message and moves on.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Mr Deputy Speaker, do not take my word for it. Listen to the words of my residents. I urge those opposite yelling to listen to this heartfelt plea from Peter and Sheree—

I moved my family out of our home for two days over the weekend just to get a break from the continual noise. Our property values have decreased. The continual finger pointing and blame game between the state and local government levels is a cop-out. There is a place for flying fox roosts, but it is not 20 metres from the back of a fence.

Another Peter said—

My car and house are again inundated and the pool is costing me a hell of a lot of money. Surely this is not a healthy way to live.

Marcel and Marilyn said—

My wife and I both work from home and the excruciating screeching is affecting our lives. The screeching starts around 4 am and we both are having difficulties getting back to sleep, resulting in feeling exhausted the rest of the day. Also, the stench of the bats when it's raining is horrific.

We need action. It needs a clear direction from the minister to the department to put people before bats and to do it sensibly. We are not advocating the wild west; we are advocating nonlethal means and a clear direction that puts people before bats. Let us return lives to the residents in these communities.

*(Time expired)*