




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 4 April 2019

MOTION

Federal Budget

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (12.34 pm): I rise to speak against the motion. I do so in the 56th Parliament—the Queensland parliament, a parliament that has fewer sittings than almost any before it, a parliament that sits for shorter hours than any before it. Yet here we are spending an hour and a half debating a motion that means absolutely nothing. We cannot change a thing with this motion. We will debate the motion for in an hour and a half, but nothing will change.

Both sides of this House have different agendas in this place, but it should be a place where we debate those different agendas and we debate them forcefully. Today, for an hour and a half, when we could have spoken about the hospital crisis that is gripping this state, we do not. Today, for an hour and a half, when we could have spoken about the fact that this state has not built a dam for a generation, we are debating a motion that will not bind a parliament that is a long way from this one.

Sadly, the comments from those opposite are dripping with all the political envy that we have heard in recent times and have made people so disenfranchised with the body politic. Across the chamber we have a government that has consistently failed to live within its means, that does not have a plan to pay down debt, yet its members will come in here and seek to tear apart a budget that is balanced. They will come in here and fail to mention that their own Treasurer, within a handful of weeks, has the figures so fundamentally wrong.

An opposition member: It's embarrassing.

Mr CRISAFULLI: It is embarrassing. The Treasurer has the figures so fundamentally wrong that, on budget day, under the cloak of darkness, she had to scurry back in here to somehow try to slip through that she has her predictions so horribly wrong. The Treasurer did not get the predictions wrong; it was always going to be a tax that cruelled the property industry at the worst possible time. Those opposite do not understand economics.

Instead of talking about their own economic agenda, today the members opposite have come in here and sought to portray the politics of envy. Nothing highlights that more than when the members opposite are prepared to talk about a budget that, in their terms, has put allocations for infrastructure on the never-never, yet they will focus on tax cuts that are in the same period for one group of people they do not like, and they have framed a whole economic narrative around that. I can tell the members opposite that the tax cuts for those people they describe as the 'rich' occur a long way after the tax cuts for lower and middle income Australia are delivered—a long way away.

Despite the fact that many of those opposite do not like those people whom they define as rich, they represent a lot of them. At the moment, those people do not feel rich. They have to pay bills that are rising all the time. Each and every day those people make sacrifices. Many of them are probably working between 60 hours to 80 hours a week. They do not feel rich at all.

I want to finish on a comment that was made by the Premier when she referred to the Morrison government. The Premier spoke about a date with destiny. There is another date with destiny and that is when this government finds an economic narrative. If by some chance Mr Shorten becomes Prime Minister of the country, that date with destiny will occur to those across the chamber. The only narrative this government has is to attack Canberra. My goodness, if that disappears, we will have 18 months of silence. We will have 18 months of a government that has to try to find a narrative, that has struggled to even be able to attract the support of its base. That day of destiny might be coming.