



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Gold Coast, Koalas**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (7.00 pm): I would like to make a contribution on the ongoing issue of koalas particularly on the northern Gold Coast and what we need to do to better protect their habitat and understand the science behind this. It has been nearly three years since the government constituted the Koala Expert Panel and nearly six months since the first day of the Koala Advisory Council, yet we still wait for definitive and decisive action on this topic. I will acknowledge that it is a complex issue, but the myriad excuses of why we should not act must end.

This is an iconic species and it is under real risk. This issue will only be solved with research, a plan and, above all, action. In the area of science, we must look at the diseases that are compromising the koalas, but we must also do a proper analysis about translocation and its effectiveness from a baseline study. In the area of planning, we need better planning protection and we also need conservation corridors and land set aside. The member for Glass House is in the House today, and I can say that he did this effectively. There is one example on the Sunshine Coast which is a great legacy of that.

The rule and the rights of a landholder must always be protected but so too must the species. To balance that, it takes money from the government and a vision. We have to see an end to this ad hoc buying of small parcels. There needs to be a proper, dedicated scientific approach that protects the rule of law, protects someone's investment and protects a species.

How serious is this issue? Reports show that if we do not act within two decades the koala population in the east Coomera area will have halved and it will be unviable within half a century. This is not a legacy we want on our watch. We are aghast when we see stories of habitat destruction for pandas and orangutans across the globe, but this iconic animal on our doorstep is at risk and this needs action immediately.