




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Chiba Park, Flying Foxes

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.25 pm): I rose in this House a little over a month ago and told the tale of woe that is Chiba Park in Coombabah in my electorate for those residents who are living with the nightmare of an infestation of bats that is causing their health, their mental state of mind and their lifestyle a great deal of stress at the moment. I want to update the House. Unfortunately, Mr Deputy Speaker, it is not good news. I would like to tell you that things have got better than when I spoke in the House on 20 March, but they have not.

On 26 April an audit was done by the council. The council believes that there was in the order of about 3,000 bats. Just one week later that number had escalated to 6,000 on their count. It had doubled in a week. Sadly, it has continued to get worse over the last fortnight. I want to read some comments from some of my constituents so members in this House know what they are going through. This is from Peter—

The bats this morning are totally out of control. The activity, the noise, the smell have again escalated. They were active for the entire weekend—and I mean the entire weekend—with peak times at 10 pm, midnight, 3 am, 5 am, 7 am, 10 am and midday. It did not stop.

This is from Rex—

The animals appear to be in greater numbers than ever before. They are roosting in greater density in the trees closer to our property and the school. The smell and the noise is intense and the droppings are fouling our property. Any rainwater harvested from our roof to our tank is unable to be used for fear of bacteria. We are being deprived of sleep, with resulting anxiety and depression.

We must act. These residents are not asking for the bats to be killed; they just want them moved on. All it needs is a pragmatic approach where the government allows the council to come in and undertake the tree clearing that needs to be done—and I am not talking about tree clearing to wipe out the trees. This is about removing the roosting area. We had the situation just last week where the local school that adjoins this park put out a newsletter to the school advising the kids not to use a portion of the back oval behind the hall.

Enough is enough. I understand the need to protect species but I also understand the need to protect people. These families are going through living hell. The buck-passing must stop. The culture in the department must change. People must come before bats. Families must come before flying foxes. Enough is enough.