




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Koalas

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.24 pm): It has been two years and two months since the Queensland Koala Expert Panel released its report—two years and two months—but it is too hard a decision for the government to make. The government sat on the initial report for eight months. I would suggest that eight months would have been long enough to formulate a response, but they sat on the report for eight months. Then, having publicly said that they were ready to act on it, they said within 12 months we would have our plan for koala conservation in this state. Twelve months has come and gone—has come and gone—as of May of this year.

Today I can reveal the only action we have had on koalas—the only thing that has been delivered by the minister—and that is a bill of \$64,272 on advisory councils, meetings, room hire and catering. That is what we have achieved. We have racked up \$64,000 and we have not formulated a koala policy in this state.

Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, let me tell you why this is important. Koalas right across the state are important. In your own electorate, there is a very significant koala population on Magnetic Island, but in the northern part of the Gold Coast it is situation critical. The member for Oodgeroo knows about it in the Redlands. It is situation critical. There have been reports, some of which have been redacted, that show that within a couple of decades the koala population in the northern Gold Coast will be at critical levels to the point that it will not recover, and within four or five decades there will not be a koala left on the northern part of the Gold Coast. Is that the legacy we want to leave? We were happy to use Borobi for the Commonwealth Games, but is our koala legacy in this state going to be a cuddly koala costume for a great significant event, or are we serious about this and are we going to get action?

So that I do not just point out the problem without a solution, allow me to give the minister the solution. The solution is simple: do an assessment of what the significant areas are, define those areas and then purchase those areas if they are not owned by the state and lock them away for generations. That is how you will get real results. Cherry-picking little bits here and there will not result in defined corridors that can save this species. The only way to do that is by protecting the significant areas. Do not undermine somebody's property value. It has to be done in a financially responsible way and transparently, but we must act on koalas now.