




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.07 pm): I too will make a brief contribution on the Auditor-General's report No. 7, *Conserving threatened species*. Firstly, I will outline why it is important that we continue to benchmark the performance of the department and, indeed, other agencies in what is a noble and worthy cause and why we must continue to implement all of these recommendations and continue to strive to improve. It is because Queensland is home to 85 per cent of Australia's native mammals, 72 per cent of native birds, just over 50 per cent of native reptiles and frogs, and more than 11,000 plant species. Queensland has 955 threatened species listed under the Nature Conservation Act. Those facts are from the initial report in 2018-19.

I want to make two points. The first is to pick up briefly on what the member for Noosa said. She mentioned the need to ensure that offsets are used effectively and directly, and that they can offset an impact in an immediate location. I will continue to advocate and push for that, particularly when it comes to key conservation corridors in growth areas.

In my brief contribution, I want to refer to point 2.6.1 in the report. The committee sought comment from the Audit Office about the cost of implementing the recommendations. When asked directly about the cost of implementing the recommendations, the QAO stated—

In terms of the recommendations, the costs probably are not all that high. It is more about harnessing the activity that is already occurring but sporadically ... We have not put a dollar cost on it, but it is certainly, from our point of view, not likely that it would require a considerable amount of additional funding or potentially any additional funding.

I place that on the record because I know that, when a government is told that it needs to improve, often its response is not about a change in focus, a change in attitude or a change in KPIs and then sticking to them. Often the response is, 'We just need more resources.'

Good ministers are able to issue clear and decisive direction and prioritise. Clearly, there should be few greater priorities for a department of environment than conserving threatened species. With that, I look forward to continuing on the journey of meeting these recommendations. I sincerely hope that the strong recommendation from the Audit Office to reprioritise, rather than throw money at the problem, is adhered to.