




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT

Tourism

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.42 pm): Repeatedly saying something does not make it so. When the minister stands up and says, 'Queensland tourism is booming,' it is offensive to those businesses that are trying their best in very difficult circumstances but seeing their bottom line decrease. It is highly offensive to suggest, 'Queensland tourism is booming.' I understand the minister's desire to be a champion for the industry—as the minister, so she should be—but being a champion does not mean being a cheerleader. It means being a visionary. It means setting a direction and where there are areas that can be improved, she must improve them. When the minister says, 'Tourism is booming,' and in the last three years an operator in Cairns has had to experience a flat line in their performance, a reduction against the national average of 21.5 per cent, that is offensive. When the minister says, 'Tourism is booming' and an operator in the Whitsundays has seen their share of the international market reduce by 39.5 per cent—and that was before the shark debacle—that is offensive.

By all means the minister should talk about the offering in Queensland, but we need to have an honest conversation about where we are at. Do members know what state has had an honest conversation? Tasmania. On the back of that that once sleepy state—

Mrs Stuckey interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take that interjection from a former tourism minister—the once sleepy state of Tasmania has stolen the march. They have done that by looking the noisy minority in the eye and not just talking about ecotourism, as we have in this state for too long, but delivering it. Tasmania has increased its share of ecotourism nationally by 45 per cent, or 67 per cent in real terms. That is what a booming tourism industry looks like.

When I hear the member for Cairns tell us about things being great in his city, it reminds me of a conversation that I had with a person in Cairns when I was there last who said, 'He's a pretty good guy, but he's pretty ineffective.' The city of Cairns needs somebody who advocates for them. We need to act on shark protection. We need to act on new industries. We need to be honest about the need to stop talking about ecotourism and delivering it. The Queensland tourism industry needs a leader, not a cheerleader.