



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 February 2020

## ADJOURNMENT

### Koalas, Tourism

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (7.00 pm): The draft South East Queensland Koala Conservation Strategy is out and, in a word, it is a disappointment. It does nothing more than kick the can down the road for what is an important decision we in this state need to make. It has been nearly four years since the government announced an expert panel on this. In that time, funding for protected areas and the purchase of such is down 65 per cent. In that time, the government collected \$36 million in environmental offsets from developers and did not spend a cent. Not one hectare of land has been bought despite \$36 million being collected.

The koala council and the expert panel have been meeting, thrashing out details—doing it in good faith—yet what was one of the greatest expenditures of those panels? Nearly \$19,000 on catering. That is one of the greatest legacies of those opposite. They spent more money on tea-leaves than on purchasing eucalyptus leaves! They went absolutely nowhere with the strategy they promised nearly half a decade ago.

There is a study into the northern Gold Coast. To have the member for Coomera here tonight is magnificent, because nobody knows it better than the member for Coomera. That study shows that, if we continue on the current trajectory, the koala population will be unsustainable within two decades and non-existent within four decades. This strategy does not put aside the money needed to purchase strategic land parcels. You cannot say to somebody who has property rights, ‘Sorry, you can’t develop here.’ That is against the rule of law. Money needs to be set aside. Those areas must be purchased and quickly. I have little faith in the mapping. I have little faith in the government finding a solution that can walk between the environmental movement and the development industry. Only a change of government will deliver the solution.

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I take the interjection. The solution is that you buy strategic parcels, you do smarter planning and you do the things that need to be done. They are prepared to stand beside Borobi at Commonwealth Games time but are not prepared to save his real-life furry friends.

Koala tourism is worth nearly \$3 billion to this state each year. I finish my contribution by talking about tourism. Right now, tourism is hurting in this state. Right now, tourism needs an injection from the government. We need to look at things like fee relief and upping the marketing spend. The coronavirus is just the latest in a series of onslaughts for our great industry. The industry needs help now and the minister must act to reinvigorate a vital part of our economy.