




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 18 February 2020

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Coronavirus Response

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (12.08 pm): It has been almost three weeks since we first heard about coronavirus and the impact it is having. It has been 16 days since the Leader of the Opposition called for an assistance package. Yet what we have seen today misses the mark both in its timing and its quantum. If you do not wish to take the words of a politician, take the words of somebody whose life is about tourism. The CEO of Destination Gold Coast, Annaliese Battista, described the package the government is putting forward as a slap in the face. She described that paltry first contribution as a slap in the face, which were ironically the words used by the member for Cairns.

Tourism in this state is already hurting. It was hurting before coronavirus. It was hurting when we continued to see our market share slide year on year. When the tourism minister hopped up in Cairns and said that the Global Tourism Hub was all but a dead duck because of a disease which had impacted in the last fortnight, there was a collective groan in the room. They knew full well it had been a sick and twisted game of kicking the can down the road and of pretending there was life in something when there was not.

We hear the government stand up and talk about ecotourism being the panacea to fix our ills. Tasmania has continued on and delivered things and we are still talking about the same projects that the now tourism minister was talking about as environment minister a decade ago. We continue to talk about Wangetti Trail and the completion date that keeps getting pushed down the road. During the time that an upgrade to the Cairns Convention Centre has been discussed, we have seen things like the Museum of Old and New Art built and the Marina Bay Sands in Singapore get up and running and yet we continue to talk.

When I spoke about the levy in Cairns I saw the collective grief in that room. The people of Cairns feel so helpless that a government that has expenses that continue to go through the roof, that has implemented more than a dozen new taxes, that has a bill for our Public Service that is over \$5 billion per annum more than it was half a decade ago cannot find them \$10 million. The local member has to come in here and squeal for a levy because he cannot find \$10 million for his city in its hour of need.

Why is it that the intent of this motion is to condemn Canberra when both Victoria and New South Wales are getting on with helping their industries? All this mob can do is blame others because they are out of ideas, they are out of money and they are running out of time.

(Time expired)