



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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**PRIVATE MEMBER'S STATEMENT**

**Cairns, Tourism Industry**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.12 pm): Yesterday in my contribution to the debate of the Treasurer's motion, where we had the pile-on of Canberra—the Morrison government bash-a-thon the likes of which we had not seen since the week before the federal election when the Shorten sycophants lined up preparing for the incoming Labor government that was 'inevitable'—I said that this parliament should be focused on controlling the things we have a say on and that it was incumbent on this parliament to find ways to stimulate our economy. I thought I would have a look at what other states are doing and report to the House.

In Victoria a task force has been established with the clear mandate to get planning and development going. In New South Wales there are three programs: planning system acceleration—67 projects since April valued at \$17 billion ready to go because the government wants things to occur; deferral of infrastructure charges; and catalytic infrastructure. What could Queensland do, rather than Morrison bashing? What about delivering Build-to-Rent, which was announced with much fanfare at the end of December 2018? That was a year before we heard of COVID, yet nothing has happened. What about getting that going? What about the catalytic infrastructure of our own through EDQ? These are the things that can unlock private sector funding at a time that it is needed. No industry needs that more than tourism, the sector that I have the great honour of representing for the LNP. The attitude towards not allowing things to occur, particularly in our beautiful natural environment, is thwarting this state.

Today I want to make the House aware of a project that could create some magnificent ecotourism jobs—that is, SkyTrails in Cairns. It builds on the existing Smithfield bike tracks. I mention the member for Lockyer, who is a great fan of mountain biking. There are three stages comprising 120 kilometres of mountain bike trails. This proposal is led by Tony Trafford and Gus Soper, who I had the pleasure of meeting the other day. I inform the House that a petition that has been led by these people, with the support of the candidate in Barron River, Linda Cooper, has amassed over 5½ thousand signatures to get this vital project up and running. All it needs from this place is the attitude to make it happen, a government to get out of the way and work with the council—I acknowledge Councillor Brett Olds—and a little bit of funding to undertake a feasibility study.

Rather than come in here and play political games, belt Canberra and say what other people are doing, members of parliament should unlock an opportunity to create an ecotourism venture that could make Cairns the Derby of Queensland. People will come to this magnificent city and help it get off its knees in its hour of need. This is an opportunity for the far north.