




Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**

**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 24 November 2020

### **ELECTION OF SPEAKER**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.04 am): Madam Presiding Member, I rise to support the member for Mermaid Beach in taking the chair in this very honourable and important role. I do so in recognition of his long and distinguished service, not just in this place but, indeed, in local government. Ray Stevens is a knockabout sort of a bloke. He is someone who shares great relationships with members on both sides of this House. He is a born Queenslander. He served in the Albert shire starting in 1988 as an alderman, and from 1994 to 1997 he was the mayor not only of Albert shire but also of the Gold Coast during a period of great change in the local government landscape. He conducted himself during that time in a manner that the city was proud of.

In 2006 he was elected to this place, and I would like to quote from his maiden speech. It is this quote that I think shows why Ray Stevens would make a fine Speaker. He said—

I believe in strong, unfettered and robust debate carried out with passion, conviction and common sense. However, the principles of fairness, equity and polite consideration should always be the overriding constraints under which such enlivening debate should take place.

His conduct in this place between 2012 and 2015 as Leader of the House also stands him in good stead for this role and is why we nominate him today. Mr Stevens also enjoys a punt. He said to me before we walked in today, 'Crisa, I think I'm long odds. I think I'm blowing out a little bit as we get closer to the event.' With that in mind, can I make some comments about the other nominee, Mr Curtis Pitt.

It was between 2012 and 2015, in a parliament that was lopsided, that the friendship between me and the member for Mulgrave was forged. He is a man of good stature. He is man of decency. In the last parliament he conducted himself in a manner that all members respected and admired. It was in my darkest hour that the true colours of this man came to the fore. I only took two phone calls the morning after an election loss and one of them was from Curtis Pitt. It was at a time when I was looking at Twitter and on my Twitter feed were the sorts of machinations that go on about jostling for positions, and one of the positions being jostled for was the role of Treasurer. Despite all of that, despite all of the pressures, he took the time to reach out to me. That is the mark of a fine human being.

That said, we are putting forward another man of good stature and good integrity and we hope that the House sees value in that nomination. If the vote goes the way that the member for Mermaid Beach has indicated to me it might go, I wish to quote from Mr Speaker's contribution in September to this place where he said—

I wish to affirm the important principle that members should be afforded the opportunity to contribute to parliamentary debate. Accordingly, I will undertake to raise these issues with the Committee of the Legislative Assembly to consider whether any changes to legislation, standing orders or sessional orders are warranted.

In the 57th Parliament, where the government does have bolstered numbers, it is more important than ever that every member gets the opportunity to advocate not just for their values but also for their electorates and I sincerely look forward to this parliament abiding by those laws.