




Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**

**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 4 December 2020

**VALEDICTORY**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (8.36 pm): I also would like to make a contribution and thank the Premier for her words. Mr Speaker, I wish to start by wishing you all the best for the festive season. Can I thank you for the way that you conduct yourself in this place. You are always firm, but you are always fair. Your encouragement for us to put forward some new members to fill those temporary panel of speaker positions has been a wise decision. It makes us better placed to understand how this place ticks. I assure you we will continue to improve our behaviour when those temporary speakers are in place.

The Clerk of the Parliament, Neil, has one of the toughest jobs. He has to be there to give us advice. He has to keep this place running well. He has to accept petitions from the member for Coomera. These are busy, trying jobs. I thank the Deputy Clerk and, indeed, all of the parliamentary staff.

I thank those who we do not see inside this chamber, without whom this place would not be the special place it is. I refer to some of the people that the Premier mentioned, the caterers, the cleaners, the groundskeepers, maintenance and the security guards without whom this place would not be the safe place that it is for us. I know how hard it is for rural and regional members to be away from their family. They spend a lot of time in this place. It is those little touches that mean so very much. At Christmas I think it is appropriate that we pause and thank them.

I thank the Public Service, the front line, who have been tested in a trying year. It has been a trying year for everybody. Some businesses who have never experienced hardship would have done it very, very tough this year and not by any means of their making. It has been a challenging year for workers, with the uncertainty of waking up to a different world, having to do different procedures in their job, regardless of what it is.

It has been a tough year for us politically. I take this time to acknowledge some of our colleagues who are no longer with us in this parliament. In particular, I mention two very good human beings and very good members who contested the election, that is, the former members for Bundaberg and Nicklin—David Batt and Marty Hunt. I welcome and congratulate the new members for those seats, but pay tribute to two fine individuals. To the former members for Caloundra, Hervey Bay and Pumicestone—Mark McArdle, Ted Sorensen and Simone Wilson—thank you for your service. We wish you well.

To our candidates and to all candidates: it takes a bit of ticker to put your hand up and be judged. In some cases you are judged in a contest that you do not have a lot of prospect of winning. It shows a lot about the people who do that in order to stand up for their values. I acknowledge our candidates who ran in a very tough situation.

I thank two people who are sitting behind me, the member for Nanango and the member for Everton. Your hard work and decency have been admired in 2020. For me personally, the fact that you would be willing to make a contribution into the future at the level that you are shows the sort of people that you are. It also shows the kind of opposition that we will be. We are better for your contribution.

To the gentleman sitting beside me, the man referred to before as the man who would be Treasurer: I hope so. The member for Toowoomba South is a fine person and I am glad to call him my deputy.

I acknowledge the Manager of Opposition Business. We thought we would have a bit of continuity because I understand how much those opposite enjoy having the member for Kawana here.

**Mr Bleijie:** It is admiration—or obsession.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It is. I always enjoy seeing relationships blossom. Despite being combatants in a contest of minds, the respect that the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business have for each other is a beautiful thing.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member, there are standing orders that must be adhered to.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Yes, they come from different political points of view and I enjoy the contest. However, I also enjoy the level of respect shown in the way that they conduct themselves.

With your indulgence, Mr Speaker, I want to place on record an acknowledgment of a few of the longer serving staff members who are retiring this year, some of whom have quite amazing years of service. One staff member has 30 years of service and that is David Blake who worked in the kitchen until March. Colin Ogle worked in Finance for 25 years, Wendy Rollo worked in HR for 27 years and Stephen Wickson worked in security. This year, a couple of staff members have racked up quite impressive years of service, but there are a couple in particular I would mention. In the next couple of months Ian Jackson, the electorate officer in Southern Downs, will crack 40 years. However, Ian runs a distant second to Mary-Ann Lloyd in Hansard who, in 2020, will crack 45 years service.

**Mr Nicholls:** Forty-five years of listening to this!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Exactly. I finish by thanking and wishing well the Premier and her troops. Congratulations on your electorate victory. To the crossbench, we congratulate you as well. We wish you and your families all the best. I thank the media for keeping us on our toes and ensuring good governance in this state. They are an important part of this.

Finally, I refer to those who will not be listening to this, that is, the majority of Queenslanders. I say to you that, although at times we throw barbs at each other, we do so because we believe in our values. Regardless of where we come from, we have a set of values. All 93 members would not be here without them. We get up every day to try to make the state a better place.

It has been a trying year for all of us. This year there will be people who will go to Christmas in a worse position than they have ever been in. To those people I say, we are thinking of you. Over the break let us take the time to think about those who are less fortunate. Let us attempt to make a contribution to those less fortunate. In 2021, let us do our best to make this state the best it can be.