




Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**

**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 2 December 2021

**VALEDICTORY**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.38 pm): May I join the Premier and all others in this House in wishing everybody a merry Christmas. To every Queenslanders, I wish you all the best for what is a beautiful time of year for you and your families. To those who are serving us in whatever capacity—whether they are serving us behind the console at a service station or protecting us—thank you for your service at Christmas. For those who get a break, enjoy it. It is a beautiful time of year.

To the people the Premier acknowledged—those great Queenslanders who have passed, those who have retired and those who have achieved a great deal—we are a better state because of your service.

Mr Speaker, may I start with you. I wish you and your family all the best for Christmas. Thank you for your friendship. Thank you for the way you conduct yourself in this place. You are always firm but you are always fair. On the days you have a sore back you are more firm than fair, but we love your stewardship.

To the Clerk of the Parliament, who is an institution in this building, and his staff: thank you for what you do.

I also want to talk about those staff whom we do not see in this chamber at all but who make the running of this place so very important. I particularly speak for those regional members who have to spend a lot of time in this building. It is those little touches that make all the difference.

I want to acknowledge some of the staff who are experiencing milestones this year. The Premier was very gracious in mentioning Ian Jackson in the Southern Downs office. That is a Herculean effort, 40 years, and what a way to finish, with what is going on in that community at the moment.

I would also like to acknowledge a couple of others. We all know Sandy Musch in the Clerk's office. Sandy reaches 30 years service this year. I spoke with Sandy a little time ago and asked her what drives her. She says it has been a great honour for her 'to play a small part in what is a great institution.' She said it is a privilege to work in this beautiful building. I asked her what her low point was. She would not go into too much detail, but she did mention that the Clerk dropped his kids off at school the other day, it was very wet, and when he came back his socks needed to be dried in the office. I am told that was not the highlight of her day.

Our Sergeant-at-Arms, Michael Watkin, also reaches 30 years service this year—that is amazing service—with seven years in his current role. He says he has enjoyed his time immensely. He says his highlights include the swearing in of new governors—he loves those ceremonies—and he said the G20 was also particularly special for him. He said he would not reveal any confidences by mentioning any low points.

The final person I spoke with today was Tony Wood—we all know Tony in security—30 years for Tony also. He says he has enjoyed it immensely and also said that the G20 was an amazing experience. He said that to stand beside world leaders made him feel like he was part of something bigger, and we

thank all of our security guards for their service. He mentioned that in 1991, two weeks before he started the job, he came here and on the day he was interviewed there was quite a robust confrontation and the gates were damaged. He spoke about that being one hell of an initiation. Despite that, he took the job and he has enjoyed it immensely, so we thank all of our staff in that regard.

To the Public Service, those people in whatever capacity who roll up their sleeves and do great things for Queenslanders. Without it, the decisions we make in this place would never be enacted. We must pause and reflect on all that they do.

To the media—the good and bad—we would not have a thriving democracy without you and we thank you for what you do.

I want to acknowledge the challenge of COVID for everyone in this House, but especially for all of those Queenslanders we aim to serve. We could obviously spend a lot of time talking about business impacts, but it is the social ones that move us the most. Now is not the time to debate social policy or COVID policy: it is a time for us to reflect on how brave and tough Queenslanders have been this year. For those who get the chance to wrap their arms around a loved one, and in some cases grandparents who will get to see a grandchild for the first time, that is pretty special. We thank them for the way Queenslanders have been.

This is the place where I get to stand and critique the Premier and her ministers—now I have a chance to do mine. To the deputy leader, David Janetzki: David, you are a wonderful human being. Thank you for your assistance with numbers. They are often cricket numbers in the back of an office, but I thank you for your friendship.

To the Manager of Opposition Business, thank you for your laser-like focus on the Treasurer's Twitter account. Thank you for the picture of you dressed as Elvis, which secured more likes than the Premier's mum's cat.

I want to thank everyone for what they do, for the role they play. I want to thank the member for Coomera, who has helped with our workload. On 11 May this sitting he did not table a petition. That was a Wednesday. The member for Southern Downs on 15 September was not ejected and was not even warned. To the member for Surfers Paradise, who today whilst watching YouTube while I was speaking was only on volume 8, that was very much appreciated, thank you.

We come into this place with different values, different beliefs and different styles—I am looking at you, member for Maryborough! Talk about things that should be illegal—but we come to this place because we are driven by a cause. We mightn't always agree, but when we get the chance to come in here and have a go for our communities, our families, our parties, our constituents—for Queenslanders—we are better for it.

To every single person, stay safe over Christmas. Enjoy the break and enjoy living in the best part of the world.