




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Cabinet

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Cabinet is the core decision-making body of government and without it the work of government grinds to a halt. It is so crucial that when a premier is away the deputy has the duty to sit in the chair to ensure the work of government does not stop. Neither the former LNP government nor the Beattie government nor the Borbidge government ever cancelled a cabinet meeting because the premier was away. The deputy of those governments stepped up.

We have never heard of the importance of subcommittees until this week, when all of a sudden they became such an important vehicle of government that a minister would not show up to a briefing that he was due to speak at because of the important subcommittee that was called on that day. How did we find out? Was it because of the *Government Gazette*? No, that happened later. Was it because of a media release heading that read 'Acting Premier'? No, that did not happen. We found out because of a leak!

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, Deputy Premier! You are next on the speaking list.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Somebody in that body took it upon themselves to go to the *Australian* to say, 'The boss has checked out.' That is what happened.

This is a government without an agenda driven by factionalism and riddled with distrust. Everybody is entitled to a holiday. Let me be very clear about this: everybody is entitled to a holiday but, if the Premier does not trust her deputy to run things while she is on a superyacht, I fear for the future of this state.

Let me tell you why this matters. Right now in Queensland 45 per cent of people who turn up at the end of an ambulance ramp wait longer than clinically recommended. That is the worst in the nation. The government put forward a solution, yet in the forwards only one per cent of money is this year and barely half of it is in the next four. We went to Yeppoon and what the shadow health minister and I heard was horrendous. We heard about people waiting for surgery that was cancelled on the morning of their surgery because of a hospital system in crisis—and this government cancels the cabinet!

Tens of thousands of people are on a waiting list for housing. The only solution for the government is to change the metrics. Growth in stock is increasing less than one per cent at a time when need has skyrocketed and our population has increased. Land supply has not kept up with growth because of poor planning—and this government cancels cabinet!

Crime is out of control. In North Queensland, the council's suggestion is to put rocks around the field to stop young thugs in stolen cars from churning up the field while kids play on it. In Cairns, insurance premiums are so biting at the moment that when you pick up the *Cairns Post* you read stories of young tradies who cannot get a replacement vehicle to go to work because of a youth justice system

out of control. In Hervey Bay, businesses are not even replacing their front windows. They have just boarded them up because it is easier than having to replace them five times in six weeks—and this government cancels cabinet!

There have been crime, health and infrastructure blowouts under this government. The cost of living is impacting Queenslanders every day. People are having to choose to put food on the table or pay a bill. Every infrastructure project has blown out when it comes to time and budget and Queenslanders pay—and, rather than get together and talk about solutions, this government cancels cabinet!

The desperation and the pressure that they are feeling came to bear. First, the transport minister had to say that it was not the storming of a building but merely a gathering of like-minded gentlemen coming together. The education minister somehow wants to tell the public that the room that we have been having shadow cabinet in for the entire term is not the room that shadow cabinet is held in. The Deputy Premier, the man who cannot be trusted to chair a meeting, now wants to count our meetings. The only person who did not say a word was an ashen-faced Treasurer, who sat there saying, 'Give me a crack, please? Let me at 'em! Premier, let me at 'em! I know he is not up to it, but pick me, please, Premier. Pick me, please!'

Let me explain to the Deputy Premier a little fact. Every time this parliament has met, shadow cabinet has met—every single time. Four times a year this shadow cabinet has gone out on the road throughout the state. Let me tell you what we have seen. We went to the people of Redlands first. They told us about a hospital system where they feared for the future and the blowouts in ambulance ramping shows they were right. They spoke about a lack of road infrastructure. We went to Bundaberg where they said to us, 'They promised us a level 5 hospital and have walked away. Water security is a big deal and they pulled down a dam.'

We went to Moreton Bay where we heard from the proud region about the growing pains they are experiencing—the need for land supply and the need for infrastructure to keep up with that. We went to Mackay where we were told about the skills shortage and how it is impacting the mighty mining industry that is under attack by a government now desperate for money. We went to Ipswich—the forgotten city for those opposite who will take their votes every day of the week—where they told us about the lack of spending in that city and they told us about the opportunities for defence. Later this year we will be going to Longreach. We will not need to buy a fake Akubra and we will not need to get fake RMs because we have members who know that place, who live there and who believe in it. We will be a government that invests in the bush.

I am not one who wants to dwell on the past when the Palaszczuk government was in opposition. I always look to the future but today the government opened the door, so I thought I would take a look through it. In less than two years the LNP shadow cabinet has met 31 times. In two full years of the Palaszczuk opposition they met just 10 times.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, your interjections are drowning out the speech that your own leader is trying to give, so I suggest you moderate your interjections and allow your leader to be heard.

Mr CRISAFULLI: In less than two years the LNP shadow cabinet has met 31 times. In two full years of the Palaszczuk opposition they met just 10 times. What a desperate rewrite of history from a Premier all at sea and a backbench who says she has checked out. That is what we are facing.

This is an opposition with a focus on holding the government to account. We have been disciplined in talking about the things that matter to Queenslanders: an economy where people can invest in this state and know that the rules of engagement will not change on a political whim; service delivery where an ambo will turn up when you pick up the phone, and if a blue uniform is needed because your home has been robbed there will be a uniformed officer and the law to help in your hour of need; where the misfortunate are able to have a home over their head; an economy that is built for everyone with a government that believes in integrity; where independent officers will be able to do their job; where state archivists will not be forced to change reports to cover for dodgy ministers; where independent integrity commissioners will not be heavied; where people will be proud to look at a government that stands up for them and their needs.

Let me put on the record that this is an opposition that will continue to hold a tired third-term government to account. This opposition will continue to work. For the record, no scheduled cabinet meeting has ever been cancelled because a checked-out leader was on a superyacht.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Leader of the Opposition, you used some unparliamentary language. I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw.