




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 8 November 2022

**BUILDING UNITS AND GROUP TITLES AND OTHER LEGISLATION
AMENDMENT BILL**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.29 pm): I rise to lend my support to the bill, and I do so with one word in mind: hope. These changes give the residents of Couran Cove hope. After so many months and years of despair, that is the least this House could offer them. These changes are not perfect, but they are heading in the direction they need to. These changes are not perfect, but there may be opportunities for us to continue to improve it in the future. I want to use my contribution to thank the government and the committee process and I acknowledge the shadow Attorney-General for the way in which he has endeavoured to work towards this outcome.

I want to reflect on why legislation like this matters. The residents of Couran Cove have been subjected to some of the most distressing times you could possibly imagine. My office has been liaising with many of them and we have taken the opportunity to write to different attorneys-general to highlight what is going on. When you hear stories of pensioners without access to vital services, you know that something is not right. When you hear stories of everyday people who have made an investment in what should be an island paradise wondering how they are going to pay for services that they are not even receiving, you know that something is wrong.

I want to touch on some of the feedback we have received over time. It is my sincere hope that these changes to BUGTA can deliver for those residents. We heard from a resident who is sight-impaired who had services cut from her. We have had people with serious illness; we have had people who are aged or infirm. We have had meetings cancelled and rescheduled and allegations of insufficient notice given for key meetings. We have had a power generator on the island that has been unreliable at best. At what was once an idyllic paradise we have facilities and assets that you would never expect in a modern era. There are boardwalks in disarray and rubbish on the island.

We are not talking about a far-off impoverished country; this is on the Gold Coast. We all recall the promises when it was first mooted in the lead-up to Sydney 2000. It was going to be the centrepiece of a village that the eyes of the world would look at. It was going to be sustainable and one of a kind. Instead, it has been a boulevard of broken dreams. You cannot blame the people who just want an island paradise. They just want the services they are entitled to. So it is that I throw my support behind the changes. I am going to read some words from a resident of the island—

To the layman, so many dodgy things have been undertaken by the past and current resort owners but unfortunately have been wrapped up in constant threats and legal proceedings. With many owners being just mum-and-dad investors, we simply don't have the knowledge, money or power to stop these dodgy and simply unjust events from occurring.

I say to the residents of Couran Cove: we cannot promise you money or power, but we can promise you hope. We can promise you that we have listened and that we are serious about ensuring your idyllic island paradise can be somewhere you can truly call home. I place on record my support for the changes and stand ready to make further changes that may be required. If these changes mean that those who may have controlling interests walk away from the island, I ask the government to do everything in its power to listen and respond quickly, because this legislation gives hope but it will not

give electricity and services if the government takes a back seat and walks away. We have to make sure that the services people have invested in and rely on are there, and we have to make sure that if further changes are needed we stand ready to make them.