




Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**

**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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### VALEDICTORY

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.25 pm): Thank you for your gracious gesture and, Premier, thank you for your contribution. Whilst we are all here to do our bit for our respective communities, we all know politics is a game of numbers so on the final sitting day of the year I have taken the liberty of listing a few from this calendar year. I have done it without the use of a giant calculator, which is always a good starting point. One—number of coffees shouted by the shadow Treasurer to the entire LNP party room; two—number of Elvis appearances at a sanctioned event by the deputy leader.

**Mr Mander:** Don't forget fat Elvis.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** That is right, one from the member for Everton. Six—number of petitions launched about Gold Coast infrastructure by the member for Coomera; six—number of times the member for Mudgeeraba has been ejected from the chamber; 18—references to Emu Swamp Dam from the member for Southern Downs; 75—extra millimetres of elevation gained by Dr Martens-wearing member for Maryborough; and 93—members of parliament who all love their communities and love their state.

Can I start by thanking the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk and, indeed, all of the table staff, for what they do for us. This is a place of cut and thrust. To know that we have people in those roles to always provide advice and ensure this parliament operates in the way that it should do is, quite frankly, remarkable.

I want to join with the Premier in highlighting some of the retirements and milestones: Stephen Finnimore who retired in March after 23 years; Lynne Armstrong retired in May after 44 years; Tina Grady retired in June after 27 years; Margaret, and it will be 25 years for Margaret when she retires on 2 December, which is remarkable; and Mary-Ann Lloyd, when she retires on 14 December, will have given 47 years of service. That is very special.

We have had several people notch up 10 years of service: Lynne Richards, Duska Pavlovska, Stergoula Fanourgakis, Marcia Morandini, Sunja Luscombe and Trent Carvolth. Those who have 15 years of service: Cliff Ku, Erin Hastie, Andrew Dawson, Patrick Durrance and Amanda Honeyman; 30 years of service for Andrew Currey at security; and Vicki van Til with 40 years of chamber service.

I thank the staff for the conditions they have had to work in during the renovations. To all of you, thank you for the way that you have allowed the show to go on. Also to the members of parliament, it has been disjointed and yet we have still found a way to be able to serve our communities and our state. Mr Speaker, you and I are no longer the proud owners of that rodent in the cavity above your ceiling which passed away in the last couple of days. Such is the way that we have had to conduct business in a place that is under renovation, the show has gone on.

To you, Mr Speaker, thank you for the way you have conducted yourself in that chair. The opposition and, indeed, the crossbench value the way that you run this place. It does not go unnoticed. In fact, at the lighting of the tree last night I thought your contribution summed up why it is we all do

what we do. The way that you articulated the importance of Christmas and the importance to connect with family I thought was an amazing contribution. To my family, I thank you all. I am sure all members here wish to thank their families. They do make sacrifices.

Mr Speaker, as you quite rightly mentioned, families come in all different sizes. Someone might be sharing Christmas with their father and daughter; there might be a street party with people coming together; there could be gatherings of large families. To everyone I say: you are part of what makes Queensland what it is. The majority of those Queenslanders who will be working on Christmas Day and throughout the holidays will, in fact, be frontline staff who work for the state but there are also many others who are not. We should be really thankful for the people who will be at the console at the local servo or those keeping a business open and maintaining its cleanliness in case people need its services on Christmas Day. That is something that we should all be thankful for every day of the holidays.

To the media I say: you are a vital part of democracy. We do not always agree but we all agree that it is vital that you are there to do what you do.

The Premier mentioned the Public Service. Indeed, the opposition joins with her in thanking them for what they do. These have been challenging times for them. They have had to continue during the disjointed nature of COVID as have those in workplaces across the state. We thank them for all they do.

To my team, if there has been a highlight for me this year it has been the friendship that I have been able to establish working as closely as ever with the member for Kawana. I thank you for your guidance and your counsel and for the way that you bring an edge to our team, which we all respect and value. To the Manager of Opposition Business, who has just rejoined us, I say: thank you, Andrew, for the tone that you set. We are a better place for it. To the former leaders on my side of the House, I thank all of you for your guidance and counsel. It means a great deal to me and I thank you for it.

To the staff in the opposition office, yours is a demanding job and there are only a few of you. You need to know that those extra hours do not go unappreciated by anybody. I can assure you of that.

Premier, to you and your team, I wish you all the best. I hope you have a break. I hope you enjoy yourself. I hope you get the opportunity to connect with family and friends. It is a beautiful time of year and it is important that we share it with those we love.

Finally, to Queenslanders I say: it has been a challenging year as they so often are. The floods have tested us as has the disjointed nature of the modern world that we live in. Sadly, there are tough times ahead. There is no doubt that when we gather this time next year there will be those who are doing it even a little tougher than they are now. There is an air of inevitability about that. It is up to all of us to do our part to make sure that that is minimised as much as possible.

Every Queenslander should know that we value what they do to make this state great. We know how resilient they are. Whilst they may not share in all of our decisions, either collectively or individually, they should know that there are 93 people who come to work every day with the goal of making their area and their state a little better. Today, on behalf of the opposition, I thank every member in this House for doing just that.