




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Youth Crime

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): When governments give up on integrity, they give up on governing in the interests of Queenslanders. When governments are at war with themselves, they give up delivering good services for Queenslanders. When governments stop listening, oppositions are tasked with driving policy change for Queenslanders. I have no intention of making any commentary about any bills before this House, but I will speak about the LNP's position on breach of bail—

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will speak about the LNP's stance on breach of bail, a policy that has been founded by listening, reflecting and acting. It was in this House nearly two years ago that the member for Burdekin attempted to debate the idea of making breach of bail an offence in the Bail Act, and the government took a shine to it word for word.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, I have been taking some advice in relation to the standing order that you are potentially offending, and you are coming very close to offending that standing order.

A government member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not need any assistance. I know you are attempting to deliver your speech without offending the standing orders. I ask you to be very mindful of that standing order.

Mr CRISAFULLI: They are changes that are just the first of many steps in delivering the change that Queenslanders are yearning for—a change to feel safe in their homes, in their businesses, in their streets, with their families, with their friends. Overwhelmingly, as I listen to Queenslanders, they feel that the government has let them down, that the government has not listened and that the government has not been swift to act.

Mr Walker: Where are your policies?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, you have all been here long enough to know that when I am on my feet the chamber comes to silence immediately. I will not tolerate that sort of behaviour again. You are interrupting your own member making his contribution.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Maybe the front bench does not have anything to fear after all. We have been here before. When the last round of rushed changes were here, we pointed out to the government where we thought things could be improved. Fast-forward a couple of years and time has shown our criticism and our observations on the policy that we pointed to—which was the GPS trackers—to be correct. Despite that, we will do all we can in the way we conduct ourselves inside and outside this House to let victims know that they have a voice and to let Queenslanders know that we believe in a society where you can go to work and come home and your rights get put ahead of the rights of offenders but a society where young people who deserve a second chance get one. That is going to be the hallmark of all we do in the months and years ahead.

I have sat and listened with victims and with the families of Queenslanders whose lives were cut short—people like the Fields and the Leadbetters; brave people who were with us this morning in the chamber like Ben Beaumont and Michelle Liddle; and people like Lee Lovell. Queenslanders rightly ask ‘if only’—if only families were given the opportunity to cuddle a loved one just one more time. We have met and listened to brave Queenslanders—like Ben Cannon, who was prepared to go in to bat for a mate, and like Justin Bendall-Harris, a security guard in Townsville who was just doing his job when he was allegedly rammed by young teens in a stolen vehicle playing a game of cat and mouse.

We have met with people doing their job, like Danni, who the member for Southport and I spent some time with just last week. Danni is a migrant success story, someone who came to this country with little just to have a crack. She said to me, ‘I don’t want anything from the government. I don’t want money; I don’t want favours. I just want to be able to go home and be safe and come to work and not have to put up with what I’m putting up with.’ That is not too much to ask. It was the same call from John in Toowoomba. It is across the state.

These are Queenslanders who are law-abiding citizens, who pay their taxes, and all they want is for the government to listen and acknowledge what is going on in the community and not say, ‘We have the toughest laws,’ when they are not, and not say, ‘What we’re doing is great,’ when it is not. It is real. There is a conga line of people who want action. They do not want ministers to come and talk at them. They want to be listened to, and that is not too much to ask. The timing of this debate is something that would frustrate every member. For senior ministers today to try to rewrite history on the timing of this debate is disappointing. We repeatedly called for parliament to be recalled—and the crossbench joined us, I might add—because everyone else found it in their hearts to get back to work before the end of—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock while I take some advice. Leader of the Opposition, I know you are attempting to be careful about the matters that you are raising, but you are clearly dealing with issues that are subject to the bill so you are offending standing order 231. The matter has been referred through to the committee. You will have an opportunity to debate this matter fully in the second reading debate and members of your party will be able to debate it when they participate in the committee process. I ask you to move beyond that to other parts of your contribution.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I wish to explain how serious the opposition views this though as an issue that needs to be dealt with.

Mr Harper: One trick pony.

Mr Power: This one.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you will not use props.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Of all the people to interject, it is the member for Thuringowa—a region where for seven years we have seen the spiral of crime. The member said several years ago that he had had enough and he was not going to take it anymore. I am not sure what he is not taking anymore, but he certainly is not knocking back his salary. Of all the people who should not be interjecting, it is the member for Thuringowa, whose region is under siege.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I might say that this debate needs to be had in the fullness of the community while listening. I will say that there are a number of things that I intend to speak about, and we as a team intend to talk about, in a bid to arrest the youth crime epidemic gripping this state. I talk about the provision of detention as a last resort, a provision—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Clayfield, member for Logan, you are both warned under the standing orders.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I talk about detention as a last resort because if we are serious about unshackling the judiciary, there is a provision that allows—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. The House will come to order. Leader of the Opposition, posing a question around an alternative policy to the bill is still talking about the bill. I bring you back to my earlier ruling that the speech was offending standing order 231 and ask you to move on.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I accept your ruling, Mr Deputy Speaker. I speak about the importance as a community to get serious about early intervention, about the need to give young kids help and give them hope, and that is important.

Government members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I wish to take the interjection and I will explain why. The members continue to try to walk both sides of the street by saying that things are working, 'but we are listening'; by saying that everything is A-OK, 'but we hear you that things are bad out there.' It does not work like that because I know in the government's heart they do not believe there is an epidemic out there because they have given up listening, because they see this as a political problem, not a law and order problem.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please. I will have silence while I am taking advice, thanks. I am going to warn the members for Nanango and Lytton for quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr CRISAFULLI: At the heart of any good government is keeping its citizens safe—keeping its citizens safe. People want to know that they can go home after a hard day's work and be safe—be safe in the workplace, be safe at home. When governments give up listening, the safety of its citizens get put in harm's way. When governments give up listening, they are always too slow to act and Queenslanders pay the price. When governments give up listening, they stop consulting with the people who elect them. When governments give up listening, citizens run second to the political survival of the government. When governments give up listening, you know they are not the government they once were. This government has given up on listening, and every day more and more Queenslanders are giving up on this government.