



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 March 2023

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Queenslanders have had enough of the crisis and chaos of this government, a government that has lurched from scandal to scandal, from blowout to blowout, from service failure to service failure, a government that believes it is their right to rule, and a government that expects your vote. We are going to earn it. We are going to earn it by listening to Queenslanders across this state. We promised reform and we have delivered it. We promised to hold the government to account and we continue to do so. We promised to chart a different course and we will continue to deliver that.

Because of the chaos of this government, the crises continue to mount. It was on display in the last week when it came to the issue of rental caps, an issue where on Monday the Premier said it was something that was being seriously considered; on Tuesday the Deputy Premier doubled down and even linked it to CPI; by Wednesday, there was the backdown by the Premier and the statement that it was a misunderstanding, that it was everybody else's fault; and now today we have something that does not resemble any of the previous positions: chaos leading to a crisis.

It is in the housing space where Queenslanders are feeling that crisis every day. There has been eight years of an underinvestment in infrastructure to open up new opportunities for young people to get into the market, to be able to rent, partnerships with the community housing sector and targets being met for the social housing sector. Today we heard again about more money—'You should be grateful. Here is more money'—yet, when pressed for answers on what has been delivered, we got zero. The government was questioned about four announcements that were overdue, and they could not point to a single Queenslander housed. The Housing Investment Fund—two years old and not a single new build. Granny flats—zero. Griffith University—zero. The Clayfield retirement home—zero. All of these promises are now overdue, yet the government does not feel the pain of the Queenslanders we are listening to.

Queenslanders are caught up in another crisis and that is the health crisis eight years in the making: ambulance ramping figures nearly three times what this government inherited and more than 10 per cent higher than when the former premier Bligh described them as a basket case; waiting times where innocent Queenslanders are caught between the cracks for vital surgery; maternity wards being closed in cities that provide so much for this state; scandals at Caboolture and Mackay; and the failures of the DNA lab where the opposition and whistleblowers were mocked for wanting to raise it.

Just the other day, we held our 30th town hall meeting in Townsville. When the member for Mudgeeraba and I went there, we promised the people we would take their fight to this chamber today, and what did we get from those opposites? They were whingers. The research shows that they want to try to create some kind of narrative that it is all Queenslanders' fault, that these are things happening elsewhere. Queenslanders who bravely turned up were called whingers. Queenslanders who are falling through the cracks, who are waiting for vital surgery and who did not have an ambo turn up in their hour of need were branded as whingers.

The crime crisis: where the government came into office and one of their first actions was to weaken the laws; where the thin blue line just keeps getting a little bit thinner and the government will not even release those figures to show just how bad it is; where the victims of crime fund continues to ensure that innocent Queenslanders are denied the justice and the financial compensation they deserve; where for two years those opposite told us that breach of bail just would not work and then adopted the LNP's policy word for word. That is only the start. That can only be the start if we are to truly heal the youth crime epidemic gripping this state. It is about consequences for actions, putting the rights of the victim ahead of the rights of the offender. It is about unshackling the judiciary to make sure that detention as a last resort is removed from the Youth Justice Act which is shackling our magistrates in their decision-making. It is about gold standard early intervention so we can turn kids around before they have a knife standing at your door, before they are ramming into yet another police car, and before another Queenslanders falls through the cracks.

Those opposite just expect that this is what will happen, that they can continue to fail Queenslanders and they will continue to have a mandate to do what they continue to do. For 30 of the last 35 years at the time of the next election, those opposite will have been in power where they would have won 11 of the last 12 general elections and they believe that that is their right. The government will be seeking its fourth term and 14 years in office, and they expect your vote. We are going to earn it. We are going to continue to earn it by working harder, by listening better and by getting across this state and showing Queenslanders what it will be like to have an economy built on the back of small and family business, to have service delivery so an ambo turns up and is not stuck at the end of the ramp, so there are more police and they have the laws to do their job, so young kids can get into the housing market, so our national parks are maintained to the best standard ever, and so our educational institutions continue to provide the best opportunities for our kids and that standards are met that are the best in the nation.

We have reflected this by getting candidates in the field earlier than ever before, candidates that reflect a modern Queensland, who will be fighters for their electorate, and candidates who will be asked to speak up on behalf of their communities. We saw it on the green on Sunday where three brave candidates stood up for their electorates—people like Yolonde Entsch for Cairns, a humanitarian and small business owner who has dedicated her life to vulnerable Queenslanders. She spoke about the issue of crime and homelessness in her community. Natalie Marr for Thuringowa, a former councillor, a long-term chair of Townsville Crime Stoppers and volunteer, told us what it is like in her city because of a generation of repeat young criminals. Rebecca Young, born and bred in Redlands and a chamber of commerce president, spoke about what the lack of investment in health and road infrastructure and places like the hospital has meant for her city.

They are the first of many candidates who will be out in the field earlier than Queenslanders have seen before. We are building a team that will stand up for Queenslanders, against the chaos and the crisis that those opposite have overseen. They will be candidates who will be unashamedly putting their regions and their cities first. They will be part of generational change for this state where Queenslanders will again be treated like customers, where they will matter in the eyes of their government, where the services will be delivered for them and where they will not be accused of being whingers if they want to speak up.

**Mr Powell:** They will be listened to.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** They will be listened to. They will have advocates who will put them first.

This government believes that it is their God-given right to be the government. They just expect it because they feel that is the way it always has been and always will be. The education minister just nods. We see that and the hubris, the arrogance but, in the end, the chaos and the crisis that is besetting those opposite. Queenslanders have woken up to the same old scare campaigns of a government that has been in office for 14 years and wants a fourth term at the next election.

Finally, before I conclude my contribution, we are farewelling a long-serving journalist in this state, one might say a 'silky' smooth operator. We wish Marty Silk all the best in his move. Marty has been a long-term servant of Queensland in what he has done. He is leaving the Gold Coast for Sydney. We can only say to Marty that that is not his finest decision! However, we wish him all the best. We thank him for the way he has conducted himself and send best wishes for his next career move.