




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Queenslanders have never been more concerned about youth crime. They are losing faith with the revolving door of the youth justice system in this state; they are losing faith with the lack of consequences for actions; and they are losing faith with the lack of detail of early intervention from this government. Secret correspondence shows the government's focus is not on Queenslanders but about writing a script and delivering a storyline. It shows a government in chaos lurching from crisis to crisis. It shows a lack of a plan and it shows a lack of compassion. Today the Premier was aghast at questions about an issue that she said was a media release. It was not a media release: it was a window into the soul of the way this government operates.

It revealed details about a policy that every Queenslander knows was cobbled together despite what the Deputy Premier of this state says. It showed that with 15 minutes to go the government was still not rewriting just the media release but the policy. It showed that police did not want to stand up with the minister. Then something happened in 13 minutes that changed all of that. It shows that despite a reluctance to adopt the breach-of-bail policy the opposition has spoken about for two years, finally after stonewalling they adopted it word for word because it was all they had.

Leaders in this state are not directors in a movie. People in this state are not extras in that film. They are plumbers losing their trucks; they are kids losing the feeling of safety in their homes; they are husbands losing their wives. This afternoon just before I walked into this House I was contacted by the family of a young woman in Yeppoon. She was at the gym this morning. Her car was stolen by someone brandishing a knife. The car has already been crashed. How is she going to get her kids to school tomorrow? How is she going to get to work tomorrow? How long will she be without a vehicle? What will it cost her? She is not part of a movie; she is not part of a script. This is her life, and she deserves to know that the people making decisions about the laws that should be keeping her safe care more about her survival than their survival.

Queenslanders are losing faith that this government will address their issues and they are losing faith in the Premier and her leadership team. We are seeing a breakdown in frontline services every day. Today it took questioning from the LNP to find out how long Queenslanders are waiting because of ambos stuck on ramps—147,000 lost hours, a record no Queenslanders ever thought they would see or wanted to see. That is 400 hours every day; 40 ambulance crews off the road every day. Not because of those ambos and not because of the doctors and nurses—but because of a government that has not properly planned the health system or allowed frontline staff to take control. Today the health minister tried to respond to the clamour about response times. The response times show how good the paramedics in this state are. They are trying to hold a system together that is at breaking point because

of a government that has not planned, not listened to our solutions to improve triaging and making sure we are serious about open data, and to properly resource our hospitals and put doctors and nurses back in charge.

It is not just in law and order and health: it is in the small business community where there is genuine concern at the moment. We heard the Treasurer this morning tell them that they have never had it so good. Well, he is not speaking to the people I am listening to.

Government members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: We should take those interjections because those at the backbench, who the Premier says will never be moving, are yelling out about how great things are.

Mr Harper: Three per cent unemployment rate in Townsville; 14 per cent under you!

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection, because there is a lack of understanding about how tough things are for small and family business and their staff. Last week I spent time in both Bundaberg and Nambour. There is a sense of fear from the small and family business community and their staff about things like rising costs, electricity, insurance and their goods and services. I spoke with one small business owner in Bundaberg whose biggest concern was that, because of falling trade, they had to scale back the hours of a casual staff member. That casual staff member means a lot to that business. As a result, that casual staff member cannot stay with the business because she has to continue to pay her mortgage and she cannot. There is a feeling of disconnection from that business because that person is like family to them. These are real world decisions.

The state government will sit there and crow about figures while completely missing the point. Small and family business have never felt more pressure than what is coming. They know because, unlike the government, they can plan. Unlike the government, they know how to deliver for the long-term. Their staff are feeling it. They are seeing it with all of the rising costs that are coming, but they are not able to pass those costs on because the community is at breaking point. We are 12 months away from the kind of economic conditions this state never wants to see. It is going to be tough. It is not helped by a Treasurer who stands up and tells people they have never had it so good. So it is with a lack of planning in other issues like water security. The government has not mentioned water security once in this House in a considerable period of time.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Yes, the member for Southern Downs and the member for Nanango have mentioned it once or twice. The government's solution to a future water shortage is to hope and pray for rain. The government has not built and invested in infrastructure and is just hoping everything will be okay. The government is now talking about a myriad of schemes but there is no money, there is no planning and there is no vision from this government. Despite a rapidly growing population, the government has not kept pace with that growth. There is no detailed planning and there is no vision. There is an anti-dam agenda raging through their souls.

So it is in housing, where the government has overseen the biggest blowout in the social housing waiting list that Queenslanders have ever seen. By even its own standards the government has not met its own promises, which would have fallen beneath the mark on its own. The Auditor-General showed that the government has not been able to do everything it said it was going to do. The government has not partnered with the local government sector to deliver infrastructure to open up opportunities for young kids to buy a home or people to rent. The government has a philosophical aversion to the community housing sector. If you look at other states of both political colours across the years the community housing sector has been unleashed and they have been able to deliver for the least fortunate, but because this government has an aversion it has not done the same.

If the government were actually delivering social housing, we would understand it, but they are not and the most vulnerable are waiting. In fact, the waiting list for social housing has grown by 70 per cent while the stock on the ground has not moved by two per cent. That is a crisis created by a government with an inability to plan.

Queensland is in a frontline service delivery crisis. We are seeing it in our housing, we are seeing it in health and we are seeing it in law and order. This is a government that cannot plan or deliver. The government might very well think it is a script and a storyline, but Queenslanders are living through their horror-movie government and Queenslanders realise that this government has lost the plot.