



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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Record of Proceedings, 28 November 2023

**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Twelve months ago I asked in this House, ‘How much more can Queenslanders afford of a government that has checked out of doing anything?’ I asked what the government was doing about families living in their cars. I asked what the government was doing about Queenslanders living in fear in their own homes. I asked what the government was doing about Queenslanders dying waiting for ambulances to arrive. I said that no matter where you turn, the failures of this government were impacting Queenslanders. We hoped that 2023 would be better, but what we got was the worst year of a decade-old government rotting before the eyes of Queenslanders. On Boxing Day, our state went into mourning.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This government has not been in power for a decade. He is misleading the House and he ought to correct himself.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! I will hear the point of order in silence. Minister, can I ask you to come to your point of order?

**Mr BAILEY:** The point of order is that it is not a matter of accuracy.

**Mr O’Connor** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bonney, you are warned. I had asked your side to come to order. I am trying to hear the point of order so I can rule on it.

**Mr BAILEY:** He is misleading the House with that claim and he ought to correct himself.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the Leader of the Opposition, member for Miller, there is a well-established process for members to follow if they believe someone has misled the House. That is not a point of order, and I give a general warning to the House that anybody else taking a point of order like that will be warned.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It is almost a decade, Mr Deputy Speaker, but luckily he did not take offence to the fact that he is rotting before the eyes of Queenslanders. On Boxing Day, our state went into mourning and our Premier went into holiday mode. The government’s response in January was a 10-point plan. RTIs show how it was put together—on the fly—with a government looking for a political fix instead of trying to fix a youth crime crisis gripping Queenslanders. In contrast to the Premier who this year has avoided talking to crime victims in places like Townsville and Toowoomba, we have spent the year listening to victims of youth crime. What do victims ask? They ask: where is the Premier?

In February, we had the Wacol paedophile precinct breached. There were allegations a girl aged 15 had been able to enter the precinct—the last place a young woman should be. Two toddlers known to Child Safety died in a hot car. The government has been asleep at the wheel, and Queenslanders are asking: where is the Premier?

Also in February, there was the adoption of an LNP breach of bail policy, after Minister Ryan brought the PowerPoint presentation into cabinet. The member for Sandgate had been rolled out 24 hours beforehand to defend the indefensible. We warned of the shortcomings of the legislation. We warned of the danger of not removing detention as a last resort. The community has been calling for leadership for the government to admit that watering down the laws and fewer police have created a youth crime crisis, and they ask: where is the Premier?

In March, there was the scrapping of the independent Olympic delivery authority. The state government made a commitment—a commitment on the world stage—but because of an \$800,000 contract between a couple of Labor mates, we have seen the scrapping of an independent Olympic authority. Where is integrity and the openness that was promised? Where is the Premier?

In April, the Griffith University emergency housing was abandoned—the signature policy of the government's Housing Summit.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr Purdie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Cairns and member for Ninderry, you are warned.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** After \$2 million was spent, the whole thing was abandoned because of a bushfire risk. The bushland was there before the government made a kneejerk policy reaction, and the right to information shows texts between a former Labor MP DG and a former Labor treasurer to try to give the government an announcement. In the middle of a housing crisis, Queenslanders were asking: where is the Premier?

In May, there was a ministerial reshuffle. The pressure of ambulance ramping and waiting lists had grown too much, so the Premier acts, not by holding anyone accountable, but by doing a reshuffle—the same faces around the same cabinet table. The crisis continues and today we see it deepens. Queenslanders ask: where is the Premier?

In June, poor education outcomes are revealed, where the government shows that it has failed to meet its targets for reading, writing and numeracy in our schools. The government has failed to reach targets for Indigenous students. Queenslanders ask: where is the Premier?

Also in June, there was a \$2.4 billion blowout in train manufacturing. The minister and the Premier knew about it and withheld it from a media release. Again, the government was trying to cover up its political problems. Today, further proof of the cover-up culture continuing—\$3.1 billion—another blowout! As if this government was not running off the rails enough already, today we have another train wreck costing this state billions of dollars. This is a minister who can no longer administer. Minister Bailey said Queenslanders do not care about blowouts. He does not care about blowouts. Where is the accountability in government? Where is the Premier?

In July, fire ants are surrounded, the government says in their media release. I quote: 'New response plan has fire ants surrounded.' Now it is a national embarrassment with almost every Queenslander knowing that they have crossed the border to New South Wales—almost every Queenslander. Today the minister's claims of biosecurity being serious is in tatters, and people are asking again: where is the Premier?

Also in July, Queensland records the highest cost of living. ABS data shows: rents up 8.9 per cent; electricity up 25.4 per cent; health costs up 6.7 per cent; and insurance up 17.1 per cent. All these are things controlled by the state government, and Queenslanders want to know: where is the Premier?

In August, there was a reduction in police numbers. Despite a promise to add 1,450 additional police, under the glare of estimates we discover 202 fewer police. On the back of it, we have a generation of untouchables and police leaving in droves. Where is the Premier?

In September, there was Labor's patient tax readjustment. Despite the Treasurer crab walking back, there are still extra administration costs for our GPs, and after originally calling out the Treasurer, there is no accountability. Again, where is the Premier?

In October, Jackie Trad wins a case to keep the CCC report secret. Again, this government is in protection mode. The LNP provides a bill to be able to clean up this mess and the government stalls. Where is the integrity and accountability the Premier promised nine years ago? Where is the Premier?

In November, \$393,000 for polling—for polling—to ask Queenslanders what they think of this government. Queenslanders would tell them if they knew where the Premier was.

In the last fortnight, the DNA bungle with the minister saying it is time to move on; billions in blowouts that Queenslanders apparently do not care about; Labor cuts from Canberra, but no action until the ink is dry; a death on a ramp; a death waiting for an ambulance; the fungal bungle; digital hospitals going into meltdown with doctors saying it is a war zone and the health minister says it is a technical hiccup. During all of this: where is the Premier?

During all of these months of crises, there is one constant in the deterioration of the youth crime crisis, the health crisis, the housing crisis and the cost-of-living crisis. It all ties back to one thing: all these are a direct result of a government that has been so consumed by themselves, and in a moment the Deputy Leader of the Opposition is going to paint a picture of just how bad and how rotten this government has become.

After nine years of failure, this is the worst for this government, and Queenslanders know it. They know it when they go out in the morning and the vehicle they need to make a living is gone. They know it when they pick up the phone to call an ambulance and they know that hardworking paramedic is stuck at the end of a ramp. They know it when the kids' dream of owning a home disappears before their eyes. Why? It is because this government, after nine years of failure, has had its worst year in 2023.

The battlelines for the next election are drawn: after nearly a decade, have things got better or worse when it comes to the youth crime crisis, the housing crisis, the health crisis and the cost-of-living crisis; and who has the right priorities for Queensland's future? That is what the battlelines are for the next election—a government that is rotting before the eyes of Queenslanders or a united, focused opposition that has the right priorities for Queensland's future. This is an opposition that has listened, that has reflected and that understands that Queenslanders are living through the chaos and crisis of a very bad government. Twelve months ago, we stood in this place and prayed that this government would get better. Nobody expected it to get worse, but it has. I say to Queenslanders: in less than 12 months there is a choice: a fear campaign or the hope that is being offered by the opposition; more cuts, chaos and crisis from those opposite or an opposition that is focused on the right priorities. Queenslanders have a choice. They have the ability to show Labor the door in '24.