




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 30 November 2023

VALEDICTORY

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.37 pm): I join the Premier and the crossbench in wishing everybody a merry Christmas and all the best for the upcoming year. Christmas is always a very special time and at times a difficult time. To those people who will be welcoming their first child over Christmas, to those who will be celebrating their last Christmas with somebody, for those who will be having a really joyous time, for those who will be experiencing extreme hardship, for those who will be relaxing, for those who will be working, Christmas will be different things to different people. I want to join the Premier in offering to everybody who is working over the break, whilst we have a break, our sincere gratitude, particularly to those people who work for the state of Queensland, whether they be police, firies, ambos, paramedics, whether they are people in the hospital system, whether they are people serving their community across all manner of fronts. We thank them very much for their contribution.

There are some staff of long service that I would like to acknowledge today: Michael Ries, the Deputy Clerk, notches up 15 years; Amanda Benn in Hansard, 20 years; Janine Hurley in Hansard, 20 years; Leah Ilott, the bills officer, 20 years; Tracey Lindfield, 20 years; Roylene Mills, 30 years; and, the Premier is right, Neil Laurie has 20 years as Clerk, but he is 30 years in the parliament. I actually have a photo from when Neil started. If you do not mind, Mr Speaker, I will use a prop. I table that photo as well—a younger, fresher looking Neil Laurie.

Tabled paper: Photograph of Mr Neil Laurie, Clerk of the Parliament [2070](#).

I also acknowledge Sue Hanlon, the EO in Oodgeroo, who has contributed 50 years of service to the public—an amazing effort.

I want to thank the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk, the table staff and the attendants. They do a mighty job and have had to work through renovations in this place, which is never easy. To all of you: thank you very much. To all of the people who work to make sure that our jobs are more achievable—those who clean, who cook, the security, the gardeners: this place is run by people who are very proud to work here, and so they should be. It is a special building and a special institution and we thank them for the valuable role that they play.

Mr Speaker, thank you for your friendship over the year. Thank you for the way that you conduct yourself in and out of the House. Thank you for today, for not warning at least two of my frontbenchers. They were both very grateful for that today. Thank you, Mr Speaker. Thanks for the courtesy that you always extend to us and the way that you reach out to all of us here in the opposition.

To my team, starting with the deputy leader: Jarrod, thanks for your strength, your friendship and your tenacity. You are one of the hardest workers in this building, and I am very proud and very grateful to have you as my deputy. To the Manager of Opposition Business, who runs an excellent show—somebody who sets a great tone, someone who is a great friend and someone who is universally respected across the political divide: thank you, Andrew, for what you do.

To every one of my team and to everyone in this parliament: you all play a valuable role in your communities as leaders and in this building. I thank you all very much for what you do. To the member for Clayfield, who is currently recovering and watching this broadcast: we wish you all the best in your recovery.

I mention the families of all of the MPs—I obviously want to thank my family in particular—and every single person in this building. The sacrifice that your friends and family—your partner and your children—make to enable you to serve is huge. We often do not spend enough time to pause and reflect on that. The hours, the travel, the constant demand and the fact that we are always on duty means that our families can often take a back seat. We should use this time of year to make sure we thank them for the role they play in enabling us to serve this great state.

To the media—to Marlina Whop as president of the gallery but to every single person who works in the gallery: in a fragmented media market, the role of people who come to the parliament and report on it is more important than ever. In an era when people consume their news from different sources, to have people who are trusted across different platforms—traditional, modern, right across the spectrum—is so vital in making sure this institution works the way that it should.

To the staff in the opposition office—small in number but big in workload: thank you all very much for what you do. To my electorate office staff in Broadwater: thanks very much for the role you play in serving our beautiful community. I am very grateful for that.

Premier, to your team and to you: I wish you all the best. I hope that you have a good break and I hope that you have some time with your loved ones. To everyone in the opposition—to everybody who opposes us—on the other side of the chamber: we share different philosophical views, but we all love the state and we all love our community. This is an important time of year for us to down tools and to down swords and to treat each other as the humans that we are. We can resume hostilities next year in the pursuit of a better Queensland, but tonight is not that night. Tonight is a night to thank everybody in this building.

Finally, to Queenslanders: in my final contribution last year I mentioned that the year ahead would be tough and it would be challenging, and that has been the case. It has been challenging for a number of reasons—challenging financially and challenging because of what Mother Nature throws at this state—but we always finish the year as a strong state and with a sense of hope and optimism for the year ahead. Every Queenslander should know that sitting in this building are 93 people, every one of them different and every one of them representing a different community. Every one of them comes to this table with a different set of values that got us here, but not one person walks through those doors without wanting to make their little piece of the state a little bit better and the state of Queensland a little bit better. We have an important role in this state and in this nation and we are blessed to have it. This is a great time of year for us to all reflect in each other's company and to wish Queensland all the best for 2024.