




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 5 March 2024

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Miles Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): When governments give up on integrity, they give up on governing for Queenslanders. Queenslanders had hoped that a change of leader would bring a change of direction, but, sadly, 2024 feels a lot like 2023. When it comes to integrity, it is feeling worse than ever before—with a Premier standing up in this House today to admit that he misled the parliament.

In a moment, the deputy leader will go through the time line of events to show just how implausible the deniability is, the member for Maroochydore will discuss the influence of lobbyists and this government being owed to so many people, which kicked off the integrity crisis, and then the member for Nanango will explain what happens when a government cares more about its polling numbers than the numbers on the bill in front of them on the kitchen table. What I will do is explain why this matters to Queenslanders.

When I first stood in this place I said that the things Queenslanders cared about and they wanted our focus on were the economy, service delivery and integrity. When it comes to the economy, the mixed messages that have been sent, the broken promises on taxes and this government's failures across the board have come home to roost. Service delivery and the big four crises that Queenslanders are living through are a direct result of a failure of this government, but integrity is the problem that continues to dog this government time and time again. While this government is distracted by its own cover-ups, the problems facing Queenslanders are getting worse. That is why this matters. This is a government rotting before the eyes of Queenslanders, while life is getting harder for them. The big four crises are impacting them every day, and they do not trust a decade-old government to fix it. That is why this matters.

Repeat criminals running rampant and the government saying it is a media beat-up—that is why this matters. The worst ambulance ramping in the country, ballooning waiting lists and a government blaming everyone else for a health system in deterioration—that is why this matters. The biggest rise in electricity prices in the country, three times the national average, and the government will not say why the major power plant blew up because of their failure over 1,000 days ago—that is why this matters. And Queenslanders struggling to keep a roof over their head, 502 days after a Housing Summit that was supposed to do something about it while it has got worse—that is why this matters.

Today the Premier said that he has been listening to Queenslanders who are struggling to keep a roof over their head. I am not sure why he has not been listening in the myriad roles he has had where he could have done something about it for nearly a decade. He says that the housing crisis has come as some sort of a surprise to this government. It has been nine years of deterioration. Poor state policies have driven down housing supply. It has driven Queenslanders out of their home, and the Premier of this state was driving by homeless people and did not stop to ask if he could help. That is where things have got to in this state.

In just the handful of days since we were last in this place, here are some of the things that have happened on the watch of a nearly decade-old government that wants to have a fourth term and 14 years in office. We have had more cost and time blowouts when it has come to the health crisis build, and the only reason they came to light is because the shadow health minister put in requests. The government failed to release the promised youth crime data. There were three KPIs that they said they were going to do something about. We found out that they did not—six months after making that promise.

We found out that the promise to build Sunshine Coast rail all the way to Maroochydore is not happening. It is twice the price and half the line, creating a car park at Caloundra—and the government wanted people on the Sunshine Coast to celebrate it. They are not celebrating it. The only way they are going to celebrate it is if the government changes in October and the LNP build it all the way, as was promised many years ago.

We had rumours that the member for Maryborough was going to jump ship to the crossbench. We had the Attorney-General announcing her retirement days after committing to serving on the front bench. We had a police commissioner who decided to leave during her term. However, the most important thing that has happened—the one that should motivate all of us for change—was the funeral of Vyleen White. That is something that matters. That family are owed so much for their bravery, for their resilience and for a failure of policy that has made Queensland less safe. We thank that brave family for their resilience during an incredibly tough time. We grieve with them and we are motivated to do something in the future to make sure there are fewer victims. In the end, that is what matters.

What truly matters when it comes to the youth crime crisis is not trying to cherrypick figures from time to time. I have heard things like unique court appearances and ages, but it is the number of victims that matters. That is what matters. In Queensland, that number has never been higher. The number of victims in Queensland is at historic levels and it is getting worse. It is a government that has denied the existence of a youth crime crisis that is gripping every part of this state.

There is nowhere you can go in Queensland where someone does not give you a story about it. I have not heard anyone describe it as a media beat-up, though. I have not heard anyone call out the abhorrent claim, but I have not heard another Queenslanders describe it as a media beat-up. I have heard what it is like to lose your ute that you need to earn a living, I have heard what it is like to comfort a child who has had somebody in their bedroom while they were asleep, I have seen what it is like for families to grieve the loss of a loved one, but I have never heard anyone outside of this building say it is a media beat-up. I think it is time that behaviour gets called out.

In less than two weeks, Queenslanders in two of the 93 seats in this place will get an opportunity to have a vote in a by-election. The government's integrity will be on trial, and Queenslanders will be the judge. They will be the first to judge the performance of this government. They cannot change this government, and that is really disappointing. It would be great if they could, because I believe that Queensland would be a better place if we could get a new government. However, I will tell you what they can do. They can call time on what has been a disastrous start to 2024. They can say that they have had enough of the youth crime crisis, they can say that they have had enough of the housing crisis, they can say that they have had enough of the health crisis, and they can say that enough is enough on Queensland's cost-of-living crisis. They can say something else: two regions that have been treated as the jewels in the Labor Party crown can say that they will not be taken for granted anymore.

I would ask Queenslanders to see how seriously the LNP is taking these by-elections by the quality of candidates we have put forward in. In the case of Inala, Trang Yen is somebody who started her working career helping the most vulnerable there, and the president of the football club in that community. In the case of Ipswich West, Darren Zanow is not only a very well respected person in business but also a community champion—someone who has fought for the most vulnerable, someone who has dedicated his life to helping his community in the show society. We know the reality of these seats and we know that the Labor Party expect and demand to win—we get that—but we say to Queenslanders in these two areas what an amazing opportunity they have not to change the government but to send a message that enough is enough in the crises that Queenslanders are living through.