




Speech By
David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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ADJOURNMENT

Runaway Bay Police Station; Jabiru Crossing Bridge

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.59 pm): At the heart of community safety in my electorate of Broadwater is the Runaway Bay police station. Tonight I want to again call out the lack of available police officers at that wonderful little station. It is a 24-officer station that has been well below capacity for far too long. Whistleblowers have told me that, at times, less than half of those positions have been available to serve the community in their hour of need. Not only are those positions often not filled, they are stretched in both directions. They are plugging holes in the very busy and expanding Coomera area. They are on duty at the Southport watch house. They are getting stretched, and the residents who I represent in Broadwater are fed up with it. They love that police station and they historically have loved the passive surveillance that has come from constantly having those officers in the community. They are at breaking point, and every time we raise it we get childish responses from the minister. I am sorry, but the figures are clear. The government's own data shows that there are fewer police today than when they made the commitment to add an additional 1,450. In the case of the Gold Coast, that is replicated in stations across the board.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will take the interjection; and in Mudgeeraba. Today a whistleblower raised with me the dire state of Surfers Paradise at the moment. Whilst I will not furnish the number in this House, I can tell members that it is well below half, according to that whistleblower. The reason is: despite the pipeline of recruits, experienced police are leaving quicker than they are being replaced. It is time for the government to acknowledge that they need the laws and the resources to do their job.

While I am on my feet, I want to again raise the issue of Couran Cove. I have repeatedly written to attorneys-general—despite the changes of attorney-general over this term—and nothing is changing. In fact, I do not believe I have responses to some of that correspondence. It is situation critical for those residents. I want to give a shout-out to our local councillor, Shelley Curtis, who has been over there listening to residents and is taking up the fight, as I am doing in this House. There must be a solution found. The government cannot say that it is simply too big a deal; it has to be someone else's responsibility. We have people living in Third World conditions; we have imminent fire risk; we have health and safety risk. Nothing is being done and I again want to call it out.

I wish to call out the lack of planning and funding for the Jabiru crossing bridge. It is an issue that we have raised repeatedly, but, I have to say, right now the traffic congestion between Hope Island and Paradise Point is worse than at any point that I have seen, and residents want to know there is a plan for the future.