



Speech By  
**David Crisafulli**


**MEMBER FOR BROADWATER**

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**MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST**

**Miles Labor Government, Performance**

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Today the government could have come into this House and said that they had listened and charted an alternative path for Queenslanders. They have done neither. What did they say today about the health crisis, the housing crisis, the cost-of-living crisis and the youth crime crisis? Absolutely nothing! In fact, the Premier would not even say the words ‘youth crime crisis’. He is the only person in this place who refuses to admit that Queensland is in the grip of a youth crime crisis. Instead, today we heard crass personal attacks. For 3½ years I have seen this government silence whistleblowers. Today they silenced their frontbench. Who would have thought that ministerial statement time would not get off the mark? I am not sure what sort of schoolboy antics that was but, boy oh boy, I have never seen anything like it in my time in this place. This is a government so devoid of an agenda that it just ran out of things to say.

While the Labor Party spent question time trying to run a scare campaign for their political survival, we were focussed on taking up the fight for a family whose father will not be there to see his grandkids grow up. We made a promise to Russell Bates’s family that his loss will not be in vain. There will be a legacy from that tragedy. They reached out to the minister—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I take that interjection because it shows you everything you need to know. I am going to take the interjection, ‘Another tragedy’. You bet it was and they did not deserve it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Comments will come through the chair and you will use correct titles.

**Mr Whiting** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bancroft, you will cease your interjections.

**Mr Whiting** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Bancroft, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** That family reached out to the minister after the minister said on TV, ‘Please, come. My door is open.’ For three weeks they heard nothing. They came to the opposition and heard something on that day. Today the minister’s defence is that she was not made aware of it. I am not sure how dysfunctional the minister’s office is, but if such an email comes across my desk no-one will wait for three weeks. If ever you needed proof of a minister who is out of her depth and lacks compassion, a dysfunctional office and a government that has stopped caring, there it is for all to see.

The family has been failed in the care that Russell received and they did not get answers today. We are not going to stop until they do. Russell was a military man. He was an educator. He was a Lego legend. His legacy is going to matter to Queensland, it is going to matter to the family and it is going matter to this government because—

**Ms Fentiman:** It does matter. Of course it matters.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I take the interjection. If it matters, the minister should call a part 9 investigation and give the family the justice that they deserve. I thank the nurses who urged the family to call Ryan's Rule. Good on them. The minister said she wants proof that there were systemic failures. There is proof of that. The minister can continue to stonewall but the family deserves a full-blown part 9 investigation, not an internal investigation. This sounds a lot like Caboolture. It sounds a lot like Mackay. It sounds a lot like a government that is conducting itself in exactly the same way that it has for the past 3½ years.

**Ms Fentiman:** I am happy to call one once the investigation is complete.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Again, I take the interjection. If the minister is happy to call one, please, call one today because it is clear that there are systemic issues.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Waterford! There are far too many members arguing directly across the chamber and comments are not being directed through the chair. I will start to warn people. The member for Bancroft is already on a warning, in case he did not hear that.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** To be clear, I will take every one of the interjections from the health minister because I am very confident that we will get to a point in the process where the minister will be forced to call a part 9 investigation. For the sake of the family, let us do it today. This appears to be a government that is constantly trying to find ways to sweep things under the carpet. They need to be up-front and admit that there are issues. Let us make sure that no other family goes through what the Bates family is going through.

While this government spent question time on a politically charged attack, Queenslanders learnt that their electricity charges are rising more than anywhere else in the country. The Australian Energy Regulator has announced that Queenslanders are likely to see an increase in their bills in the order of \$53. In most other states costs are going down. In only one other state is it going up and it is less than the increase in Queensland.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Woodridge and member for Buderim, you are both warned under the standing orders.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** There are two things unique to Queensland: a power plant that has been offline for more than 1,000 days and a very bad government that does not care about the cost of living. Those are the two things that are unique to this place and this state. In the past year, Queensland had a 19.9 per cent power rise, which is three times the national average, and now another \$53 will be added to bills. That is the biggest increase in the country when other jurisdictions are going backwards. Their power will be cheaper. When it comes to power generation, it is unique to have a government that for 1,000 days has had no answers on the Callide power plant.

While the government spent question time playing political games, the future of the infrastructure legacy of the Olympic and Paralympic Games took another step backwards. The history of this has to be told because for almost 1,000 days the government has tried to justify a plan written on the back of a coaster, on the world stage, for a \$1 billion redevelopment that became a \$2.7 billion knockdown that was, in fact, \$3.4 billion and Queenslanders were not even told. When the government was yelling and screaming that the opposition did not back the Olympic Games because we were not prepared to skittle a sports stadium, we stood our ground. We listened to Queenslanders. For 1,000 days this state has had missed opportunities when it comes to the delivery of infrastructure. Let me again make it very clear to the government: 1,000 days ago, we called for an independent delivery authority and those opposite ridiculed us. They even employed a former Labor minister as a consultant to try to justify their position. They said, 'Just trust us. This is the only available option. This is best bang for buck. Rachel said so.'

In the end, on a dime, less than a fortnight after, we saw one of the most ridiculous internal cook-up jobs you have ever seen. If ever you need proof of what happens when people in very high office have political leanings that they cannot break the shackles of, that report showed it. The government cooked up a plan that said that the only option was to knock down a stadium without a business case. We said that project did not have our support and I think that was fair and reasonable.

We need to get back to what the Olympic and Paralympic Games were sold to Queenslanders on: a once-in-a-generation opportunity to build generational infrastructure—including road and rail—and a 20-year tourism strategy so that every part of this state can benefit. The most accessible games should mean cities in this state have accessibility that is great for tourism. We want to see a communication strategy to ensure that during disasters every part of Queensland can benefit from the Olympic and Paralympic Games. That is what we were sold—projects such as heavy passenger rail all the way to Maroochydore. We do not need a half-baked solution but the full monty that was promised. Instead, this government has walked away from what the games were all about. It has squandered a thousand days. I assure Queenslanders: if the government changes in October, we will make sure that an independent infrastructure delivery authority delivers projects that are generational for this state.

It is clear that Queenslanders no longer trust this government. They do not trust it to fix the Queensland health crisis, despite the conveyor belt of ministers with the same excuses. They do not trust it to fix the housing crisis, despite announcements of massive funds that have never built a single new property in which Queenslanders can live. They do not trust it on the cost-of-living because they are living it through their power prices. They do not trust it on youth crime when repeat offenders are ripping the heart and soul out of communities. There is a message to us: keep going on these issues; keep focusing on the challenges; keep putting forward solutions. No fear campaign and no scare tactics will change the fact that this is a very bad government in its dying days.