




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Public Service

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (2.03 pm): Since I became Premier a little over a month ago, I have had the opportunity to meet many exceptional Queensland public servants across the state in police stations, in hospitals and in corporate offices. The ministers have done the same. As I have already touched on in the House, the work done by the Public Service to ensure a smooth and steady transition to government has been commendable. I thank everyone in the Public Service for their hard work and dedication in delivering for Queensland. It is an important job.

As a government, we will invest in the sector's strengths and capabilities, making sure it is a skilled workforce that is ready to deal with the challenges that lie ahead for our state. Before the election we were clear that we would stop unfettered outsourcing to big consultants and bring that work in-house. We will ensure there are opportunities for public servants to learn new skills, work in the regions and work with industry. We will not shy away from frank and fearless advice; in fact, we will welcome it. We want our Public Service to be independent and empowered.

To ensure the independence of the public sector, our government has already passed laws to ensure the public sector commissioner is in a truly independent position. This government will treat the Public Service with respect. We know good government relies on a strong public service and that is what we will deliver. Their roles are varied, from manning the front line in a hospital to engineering our infrastructure projects across the state. If we are to turn around the broken model of service delivery overseen by those opposite, we need our Public Service to feel empowered to be fearless and frank.

In years gone by, we have seen and heard of a culture where public servants were not given a working environment in which to succeed or thrive. I want the Queensland Public Service to know that will change. I want to make this point very clear: we need more doctors, more nurses, more paramedics, more police, more teachers and more child safety officers. Any suggestion to the contrary is fundamentally false.

Along with developing a culture of capability and empowerment, our government will ensure taxpayers' money is respected. That direction and tone has to come from the top. That direction and tone has been sorely missing. Overnight, Queenslanders have learned about some truly shocking examples where taxpayers' money has been treated with contempt. Firstly, Cross River Rail, which was originally touted as a \$5.4 billion project, is now slated to cost more than three times that figure.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry, Premier. Members, yesterday's display was not good. I am not going to allow that to happen today. Members, be warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: In health there is a budget black hole of \$12 billion. Much of that missing money is for operational expenditure that is in addition to the \$6 billion worth of blowouts in the capital program. I know the responsible ministers will have a little more to say on that today. Those two examples alone show that the previous administration had no respect for taxpayers' money. They were not willing to listen and work with the Public Service to deliver the projects and services diligently; we will.