




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli
MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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VALEDICTORY

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (5.33 pm): I rise for the final time this year in this place to do two things: firstly, to wish everyone all the best for the festive season; and, secondly, to thank everyone for their contribution this year and today, on what is an historic day in the presence of some great Queenslanders here to see what has just occurred.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for accepting the role of the Speaker of this parliament. In your opening speech we saw the kind of person you are and the values you hold. The way you have conducted yourself in this House in your short tenure in the job has reinforced our views of the sort of person you are. Your Deputy Speaker and Panel of Temporary Speakers hold important jobs because this place must function as a house of good debate, robust debate and respectful debate, and I thank you and your Deputy Speakers panel for providing that.

To all of the 24 new MPs to this parliament, 22 for the first time, I say welcome. In the opening of the parliament we saw the historic tradition that is the first sitting of this place. It was wonderful to see the families of the new MPs join those who are returning to this place in marking this special occasion.

I will go through a couple of the milestones that Parliamentary Service staff have reached. It is poignant to do that and to reflect, because without their service we do not have a functioning parliament: Michael Caisley, Morayfield electorate office, 15 years of service; Gail Easton, Office of the Director of Corporate Services and Electorate Office Liaison, 15 years; Patricia Griffin, Coomera electorate office, 15 years; Annemarie Groth and Kelli Longworth in Committees and Michelle Yoon in Financial and Administrative Service, all 15 years; Michelle Dippelsman, Payroll, 20 years; Margaret Telford, Committees, 20 years; Jo Mathers, Chief Hansard Reporter, 30 years; and Azra Besic, Cleaning Services, 40 years. I also acknowledge Andrea Musch, Angie Jones, Rob Hansen and Michael Watkin, who retired from the Parliamentary Service this year. We know that Michael is enjoying his retirement. All of them have 30 to 35 years of outstanding service to the parliament. They are a credit to this House.

I will firstly address the 93 members in this place. All of you are here because you have a special connection with your community. Whilst we all serve in different capacities, in the end our respective communities have seen something in all of us. We are all part of a really important institution, and every one of you should understand the weight that you have on your shoulders in serving your community and, when we come together, in serving the state. I congratulate all of you on that.

To the opposition leader and his team I wish all the best for Christmas, particularly to you and your family. I do hope you take the opportunity to spend some quality time with your family. It is an important time of year to do that.

To my team, both the returning and the new: thank you for the way you have started this term. The energy that you have all displayed in your respective roles has been nothing short of amazing. I was listening to the contributions of the new members, and I am very confident that your communities have made great choices in all of you. I am very proud to have those members of the LNP on our team and to listen to the diversity of their skill sets. Their passion for their electorates is something I am particularly proud of.

I do not have a favourite MP but my dad does. He was watching and he took great pride in seeing a migrant from Greece stand up in this place. It is a great shame for the member for Gympie, because the member for Gympie was my dad's favourite as a farmer, but he has been replaced. Dad is particularly pleased there is someone in the House who can pronounce his surname correctly, which is quite marvellous.

Deputy Premier, your strength and resolve, the way that you shepherd the team—we would not be here if it were not for your contribution. It was a tough four years, and so much of the way we stayed unified and focused rested on your shoulders. We are very different people. We have very different interests. It took me a quarter of an hour to explain to him what a nightwatchman was. Alas, he may not have the same sporting interests, but we do have the same interests for Queensland and I want to thank him very much.

Leader of the House, you are an ideal person to do this job. Your knowledge of the standing orders and your understanding of the chamber and the way you are respected by this place puts you in stead to do that very well.

To the staff in the Premier's office and indeed all ministerial offices: thank you for your service. To the staff in my electorate office who do an amazing job—and in all of our electorate offices: we are all in this place, yet the show goes on in our respective electorates, and that shows the kind of people who operate in them.

To the Public Service, my message to you is one of thanks. The way the transition to government has happened has only been possible because of you, and we respect and value what you do. Whilst it is important for everyone to get a break wherever possible, there are many public servants who will not get that opportunity this Christmas—whether they work in a hospital, on the front line wearing a blue uniform, as a firefighter or indeed as someone who will have to be there to pick up the pieces when Mother Nature goes through. Whoever you are, whatever you do, Queensland is a better state because of the quality of the Public Service we have in this state.

To the media gallery—

A government member: To Hayden there on his own.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Hayden, there are times that we agree with you. I remember both of them. To everyone in the gallery, thanks for what you do in keeping the democratic institutions alive and well.

A government member: Madura has come in.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Madura, one of those two times belonged to you. To Lydia Lynch, who will be leaving us, we wish her all the best as she goes to enjoy life in a wonderful country. Kate McKenna and Rachel Riga are remaining with the ABC but will not be in this place. They will be going to general rounds and we wish them all the best.

To my family: I made the point on election night that I am far from the best parent in my household. The best parent in my household joins us today and I want to welcome her here today. Thank you, Tegan. We do a really good job of keeping two daughters as normal as they possibly can be, despite their father's choice of profession. We are very proud of the young women they are. Campaigns are pretty tough but they are pretty tough kids.

Finally, to Queenslanders: we are here because of you, but we are here for you. There are some pretty special Queenslanders sitting in that gallery tonight. They were brave Queenslanders and they called for change. That is never an easy thing to do, but they had the strength of resolve to call for change and Queenslanders listened. Tonight, you helped shape a pretty special part of history.

To every single person who wants more from their government, to every single person who wants more for your family, to every single Queenslander whether you were born here, whether you are part of the longest running continual culture in the world or whether you have migrated here to start anew: you are special to us. We live in a really special state. Tonight is an opportunity to thank every one of them for the contribution they make and for every one of us to make a contribution on their behalf in 2025. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.