



Speech By

Adam Baillie

MEMBER FOR TOWNSVILLE

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PRIVATE MEMBER STATEMENT

Townsville, Crisafulli LNP Government

 **Mr BAILLIE** (Townsville—LNP) (2.51 pm): We have just marked one year of the Crisafulli government delivering for Queensland. One year ago, Townsville voted for a fresh start, and that is exactly what I work to deliver every day along with the members for Thuringowa and Mundingburra. The fresh start began with the Making Queensland Safer Laws—removing detention as a last resort, putting the rights of victims ahead of the rights of offenders and restoring consequences for actions—with Adult Crime, Adult Time being applied to 33 offences.

We established a dedicated Flying Squad, enabling police to bolster their resources when and where they are needed, and we established a second Polair helicopter in Townsville to enable a 24-hour response. We have funded four early intervention programs in Townsville for disengaged, at-risk young people and a 12-month intensive rehabilitation program for every youth offender as they exit detention in Townsville. We have also made real progress tackling antisocial behaviour in our city, creating safer spaces for locals, visitors and businesses alike. We are a long way from where we want to be, but making Townsville safer remains our top priority.

We are addressing the health crisis with a commitment to deliver at least 165 new overnight beds at the Townsville University Hospital, in addition to expansions to the transit lounge and services such as the step-up step-down mental health programs. We have already begun making progress on health by reducing the elective surgery waitlist by three per cent, with over 7,000 elective surgeries delivered in Townsville under the Crisafulli government.

On housing, we are investing \$44.2 million through the Residential Activation Fund to unlock 4,200 new homes in Townsville's northern suburbs. On Palm Island we have delivered the first new social housing in seven years, with 10 new modular homes. Let us not forget that we axed a tax and abolished stamp duty on new homes for first home buyers. We are addressing cost of living through our \$200 Play On! vouchers and our \$100 Back to School Boost. We are delivering local projects on Magnetic Island, including reopening the Alma Bay bus stop, delivering Picnic Bay jetty repairs and funding new public toilets after they had been temporarily closed for years.

We have invested over \$5 million in local arts, charity and community groups and sporting clubs as well as \$4 million for air conditioning and upgraded lights at the Townsville Sports Precinct. We are establishing Townsville as the events capital of the north, hosting the No. 1 event in Queensland as voted by Queenslanders—India Fest—as well as the WNBL Townsville Tip Off, the Magnetic Island Race Week, Nitro Circus, Supercars, the Wallabies versus Argentina, as well as performances by Crowded House and The Killers. This week alone we will be hosting Jelly Roll and the professional bull-riding grand final.

Last but not least, big-ticket items—like commitments to CopperString, the 80-20 funding for the Bruce Highway and the fact that Townsville will be an Olympic city in 2032—mean billions of dollars of investment in the north that would not have otherwise been invested if the Crisafulli government had not been elected. There is still a lot more to get done and I will continue to work hard for my electorate. I am looking forward to continuing to deliver for Townsville, Magnetic Island and Palm Island.