




Speech By
Hon. David Crisafulli
MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

Record of Proceedings, 24 June 2025

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (7.40 pm): I congratulate the member for Ninderry on that contribution. It was heartfelt, thank you very much, and I thank my colleagues for hanging around and waiting until after he was finished for me.

I begin by thanking Her Excellency for her contribution and, indeed, for her efforts over recent years for Queensland. She has been a familiar face in the face of disasters. The coverage that she has made of our big state has been amazing, the way she has been there when Queenslanders have needed her, her focus on health and the way that she has opened up Government House—I want to thank her for her contribution to the state.

To the Speaker of parliament on his election: his is a great story, a story of someone who has farmed the land in tough times and someone who has had his share of triumphs and tragedies. To the member for Condamine, I offer my deep congratulations as I do to you, Deputy Speaker, on your elevation, and I wish you well in the estimates process.

To my colleagues: firstly, thank you for your faith in me over the last few years and, indeed, the support you gave me after the election. The roles we have are challenging for every one of us. I want to thank you very much for the way that you conducted yourself over the last term and, in many cases, beyond that. To the new members of parliament: it is so great to have you in this place. You join a team that is focused and yearning to serve. I want to welcome you into this place. To the Deputy Leader: a politician of great conviction, someone who balances a great love of his electorate, of his portfolio—

An honourable member interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will not take the interjection—and of his role in this party as Deputy Leader; Jarrod, we would not have been successful without your contribution and I want to thank you very much in the House.

I turn to my electorate, about which I want to make the bulk of my contribution tonight because, in the end, we all only serve because of the support we receive locally. I want to thank my local residents for the way that they have supported me over the past few terms. I never take for granted the strength of my result locally and the work that goes into that. I humbly want to thank them. I want to talk briefly about my electorate of Broadwater. In two words, it is vibrant and it is aspirational. That is what I love so much about those people who have supported me and, indeed, the things we seek to achieve for this state. It is an electorate built on small business, community clubs, sport and schools and aspirational people who just want a government to give them the support to get on with their lives. That is what we intend to do.

I will start at Paradise Point, which is the beating heart of the electorate. It is small business central. There are people there who are just carving out a living. People like Lawrence and Charmaine from the Mill Bakery and people like Barry from Paradise Point Butchery and Seafood. There are strips of businesses there and they want a government that will get out of their way and do everything they can to lower costs for them, and that is what we will do. At the Paradise Point Bowls Club, Kat and

Vanessa have become great friends of my family. The work that they do in the community is unbelievable. I have spoken in this place many times before about what they have done. In the next couple of weeks we will be having an event there to raise money for a family who lost everything in a house fire in Hollywell. The mother of that family is a paramedic. She was at work that night helping her community when her husband and their daughters had an horrendous house fire that completely destroyed their property. The local community has mobilised to try and seek alternative accommodation for them, to rally to get behind them to replace their goods, and there will be a major fundraiser in the next few weeks which I intend to support. I want to thank them very much.

In my contribution last year I spoke about my strong desire to have my electorate office relocated to Paradise Point—it was on the outskirts of Hope Island—and I am most grateful to the Clerk for that having occurred. It is excellently located. There is great visibility, there is great parking, there is great access from public transport. There is a life-sized cut-out of Jarrod Bleijie.

Mr Bleijie: So you do not want anyone to come!

Mr CRISAFULLI: No. That last bit is actually true—sadly. I turn to Coombabah and Biggera Waters. I share both suburbs with the member for Bonney, who does an amazing job locally. There is a great mix of housing offerings. It is a mixture of everything from social housing to people buying their first home. There are people of all ages. It truly is a wonderful mixture of housing.

It also has the two state schools I have in the electorate. I will reflect on the staff and students there in a moment, but I will start with Biggera Waters whose principal, Kylie Bell, is an alumni of the school. I think that is pretty special place—to have gone to a primary school and to go back and be the principal of that school is an amazing achievement. The school, undoubtedly, that I have seen the greatest value in the power of a state system that is focused on the children they look after is Coombabah primary. Last week I had to say goodbye to its principal, Murray Gleadhill. Murray has had some health issues and has decided to leave education after many decades of service to the people of Queensland and over a decade's service at that school. He has created a school that is compassionate, that values its students and its staff and that is incredibly proud. He has earned his retirement. I do hope he is not lost to education. I do hope in some capacity he can continue to make a contribution. He is an amazing school leader and the way that he has treated those kids is, quite frankly, amazing. He deserves every plaudit that comes his way.

I turn to Hollywell, which is a very small suburb with a great marina precinct. One business there that played host to an incredible event the other night is Klein's Coffee Bar & Grill. As members in this place know, the floods that devastated Western Queensland were of a scale that rocked everyone across the state. That beautiful little community decided to rally and, with the link of one person whom had a connection to the Adavale community, they put on an event which the community rallied behind and raised tens of thousands of dollars for people whom they do not know. That shows you the kind of people who live in that part of the world. Both my local branch members, as well as the local Labor branch members, took tables at that event.

Mr O'Connor: They took more tables!

Mr CRISAFULLI: Yes, the member for Bonney is right; there were more tables from the local LNP branch, but those from the other side were no less generous. The highlight of my night was getting a photo with Pat Purcell. It was great. It was a great event.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I will not take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. Runaway Bay, which is one of the larger employers with the shopping centre that is there as well as the housing, is home to the regional sports hub—cricket, football, soccer, netball, pickleball and tennis. It is a really strong precinct. Then there is Hope Island, which is the recreational and lifestyle hub—golf clubs, rec clubs, restaurants—and Helensvale, an employment hub that houses the farmers' market. In fact, it started as a suburb based on the sugar industry many years ago and it truly is a great place.

I turn now to the election, firstly to my family. I have to mention the support that I have received from my family, primarily from my wife, Tegan, but the girls as well. Members in this House know that we do all we can to keep the girls out of the limelight. They are incredibly engaged, articulate and intelligent young women. They are both nearly adults now and we are incredibly proud of them and I want to thank them for their support.

There were my friends and family from North Queensland who came to help. I had mates from school—and, to be truthful, I still do not know how they vote—who came to help me as an individual and a friend.

Mrs Frecklington: I'm pretty sure they voted for you.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I do hope they did, although not as much as the members for Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa! I do hope they did. They have just been my mates. Just today I received a text message from one of them who had found an old photo and sent me a text message on budget day. I am not sure she was aware it was budget day although it occupied all of our minds. I do value those friendships. They are long, they are enduring and they mean everything to me.

I turn to my LNP family, to my SEC chair, Gary; my branch chair, Gary—a different person—and Brett. We do have a large and active branch; there are around 300 members. They make a wonderful contribution and I am most grateful for what they do, particularly in this role where I spend a lot of time on the road. They do a marvellous job of keeping a great presence. To the secretariat, to Ben Riley, I say thanks for your stewardship. To Lawrence Springborg, to whom I owe so much and to whom everyone on this side of the House owes a great deal—indeed, all of the parliament owe a great deal to Lawrence. He has been a great servant of the people of Queensland in whatever capacity and no matter which way people vote.

I turn to my staff in the electorate, particularly to Gen who has been there from the beginning. She does an amazing job. I am regularly approached by people who talk to me about issues that have been solved. In many cases it has not been because of me; it has been because of her, Lisa, Brandon and Bailey and the work they do. I do want to thank them very much for the great show they run. Thanks go to my ministerial staff led by Richard and all of the team. They worked some incredibly long hours in the last term and I think it is important we do acknowledge them today.

Finally, I want to talk about a few of the issues. I will not blur into talking about the budget because this is an address-in-reply and it is important that we respect the processes of the parliament.

Mrs Frecklington: Unlike Cameron Dick.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Shame! Firstly, I turn to crime. I have spoken a lot about crime in this place. I have an amazing police station called the Runaway Bay Police Station. It is a 24-officer station and it has had 24 officers for far too long. I will not take a backward step in my crusade to, firstly, have it expanded. I do believe it should be a 26-officer station. I am also trying to get Hope Island domiciled in there, which I will talk about at another time.

Mrs Frecklington: Come on Purdie!

Mr CRISAFULLI: It is great to have the Minister for Police here. I will make this observation. That station was down to nine officers a couple of years ago. I went there the other day. We had a cup of tea and cake—this was just last week, actually. They are now approaching 20 positions and there are a few long-term leave of absences there; there are four long-term leave of absences. To all of the staff who have worked under incredibly trying conditions I say thank you very much. We are seeing positive signs. I want to thank the minister for the work he has done in visiting stations across the state, albeit he is yet to get to that one. He has done well.

I want to speak about health. There has been some commentary from one particular member, whom I will not name, talking about the decision at the Coomera Hospital to take it from 400 to 600 beds and that this is somehow a bad outcome. I am going to remind that member about that in a few years time. It makes absolutely no sense to build a hospital that is already at capacity on day one. The idea behind putting in 600 beds is something for which we fought from opposition. I want to thank the health minister for the review, and I absolutely cannot wait to see it delivered to the capacity it needs to be at with the opportunity for future expansion.

I turn to infrastructure. I continue to fight for the Jabiru bridge—to see that delivered, and I will make my contribution in my budget reply—the need for boat ramps in the area and to bring them up to standard and to continue to dredge. I want to see a proper plan to deal with the discarded boats and the houseboats in the Broadwater. We maintain a desire to do that. I want to see facilities for our local schools, particularly the demountables, dealt with. Like all members, we want our local community to be looked after.

Finally, I turn to the state. I say thank you very much for the way you have supported me and the team in general. We do believe in the future of Queensland. We are very optimistic about this place. I have never been more optimistic about Queensland and I am looking forward to making my contribution to the budget debate.