



Speech By **Hon. David Crisafulli**

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Cricket; Queensland Day

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (9.34 am): The first test of the 2025-26 Ashes series begins tomorrow, sadly in Perth. It is an event that is close to Queenslanders' hearts. For the past 43 years, it has been a drawcard for our state but, for the first time since the 1980s, the first game of the summer will not be held at the Gabba. Cricket fans, aspiring stars and tourists will miss out and it is all because of a former government that had no plan.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr J Kelly interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Greenslopes, you find yourself on the warning list very early today.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Labor's indecision and bad planning forced Cricket Australia to look elsewhere. The stop-start messaging around the future of the Gabba forced Cricket Australia's hand and test cricket does not belong at QSAC. Sadly, for years to come we will continue to feel the effects of a Labor government with no vision. As revealed prior to the election—

Mr Power: When are you going to take responsibility?

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection from the member for Logan. I will re-read those words: as revealed prior to the election, during the summer of 2026-27 we will miss out altogether. There will be no test cricket in Queensland at all for the first time in 50 years.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, on both sides of the chamber!

Mr CRISAFULLI: Those opposite should hang their heads in shame. However, here is the good news—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I have just called order. We have one name on the warning list and I will start adding to that from both sides of the chamber.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Here is the good news: our government does have a plan and we are going to give cricket tragic, AFL fans, concertgoers and all Queenslanders the stadium they deserve. Our 2032 Delivery Plan—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am not sure why they do not like good news. This is really exciting. Our 2032 Delivery Plan has secured a new future for test cricket in Queensland. It provides the certainty that Cricket Australia needed to lock in test cricket in Queensland. We have done a deal with Cricket Australia because of the certainty surrounding the Gabba's future. From season 2027-28, we will see test cricket return to Queensland and today I can tell Queenslanders that, from season 2032-33, the

first test of the summer is coming back to Queensland. It is coming home. It is coming back to where it belongs. That is what happens when you have a government with a plan and a vision that understands the future of this state.

Sport is in our DNA and Queenslanders love cricket. The first test belongs in Queensland and it is coming home. I want to thank Cricket Australia—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I am not sure why they do not like this. There must be someone who loves cricket over there, surely? I really want to thank Cricket Australia.

Mr Head interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, you can join the list as well. You are warned.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I want to thank Cricket Australia for heeding our calls, returning test cricket to Queensland and returning the first test of the summer to where it belongs.

We live in the best place in the world. Nothing beats being a Queenslander. This year I said we were going to take Queensland Day to the next level and we have. I want to celebrate what makes our state special and I want Queensland Day to be something that every Queenslander can be proud of. In 2026, we are in for the best Queensland Day ever. We love our sport and for next year's celebrations we have locked in blockbuster clashes right across the board: the Gold Coast Suns versus the Brisbane Lions; the Firebirds versus the Sunshine Coast Lightning, the Brisbane Broncos versus the Gold Coast Titans and, ladies and gentlemen, the North Queensland Cowboys up against the Dolphins.

What better way to celebrate than watching your favourite team take on another Queensland team on Queensland Day. I thank the AFL, the NRL and netball for heeding our calls to back this initiative. Ladies and gentlemen, mark your calendars: we will have the best of Queensland talent on show and the best of Queensland passion. It is hard to beat being a Queenslander.