



Speech By **Hon. David Crisafulli**

MEMBER FOR BROADWATER

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VALEDICTORY

 **Hon. DF CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Premier and Minister for Veterans) (5.28 pm): I start this year's valedictory by wishing everyone all the best for the festive season and thanking you, Mr Speaker, for your important contribution to the democratic processes this year. The Speaker and the Deputy Speaker took on the additional responsibility of chairing all estimates committees this year. It was a big task, but I know it made a difference to the transparency and fairness of this year's estimates process. I also thank the Deputy Speaker and the Panel of Temporary Speakers for their support in helping to ensure that good robust debate takes place in this House. I acknowledge the work of the Leader of the House in his running of this place. I thank him very much for his wisdom and counsel.

To all staff of the Parliamentary Service, led by the Clerk of the Parliament, Neil Laurie, whether you work here at parliament or in one of the electorate offices across the state: thank you for your dedication and hard work. Thank you for all of the help you provide to members which ultimately impacts their ability to support Queenslanders.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge those in the Parliamentary Service who have reached length of service milestones this year. Those with 15 years service are: Jason Freeman from IT; Jill Hopson from the Gladstone electorate office; Kelli Longworth from the committee office; and Bernice Watson from Assembly and Committee Services. Those with 20 years service are: Jennifer Buerckner from the Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service; Megan Mackee from the Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service; Robert Radulovic from Security and Reception Services; and Mary Westcott from the committee office. Notching up 30 years service are: Angela Atkinson from the committee office; Tania Coluccio from the Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service; Annette Mead from the Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service; Lloyd Pollard, a legend around here, from Security and Reception Services; and James Robertson from Financial and Administrative Services, who does a great job. Finally, celebrating 40 years service is John Polistena from Security and Reception Services. That is a big effort, John. I also acknowledge Tania Coluccio, Sue Hanlon, Roylene Mills and Margaret Telford who either retired from or left the Parliamentary Service this year.

I also thank the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel, led by the Parliamentary Counsel, Tony Keyes. Their work is vital. They work very hard. They draft the legislation that outlines the policies that the government and other members wish to put before this House.

All 93 members of this House share a desire to make our communities better. When we come together in this place I know we are all driven by that shared goal: to serve our state. In particular, Mr Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the newly elected member for Hinchinbrook and welcome him here.

To the Leader of the Opposition: I wish you and your family a happy Christmas and new year. I extend those wishes to your team and their families.

To the members in my team: thank you for your energy and enthusiasm. I am proud to lead a team so passionate and hardworking. To the cricket-loving, stage-shy, antiroyalist Deputy Premier: thank you for all you do for our team. We do indeed see the world through different prisms, but it is a remarkable partnership. I am so grateful to have you as my deputy. To all of the ministers: your jobs are not easy, but you have worked hard every day to deliver for Queensland and are often away from your own families and communities. To the assistant ministry and every one of the team: you make a great sacrifice to come into this place to serve and it does not go unnoticed. We thank you very much for answering the call. I thank every member of this place.

We are seeing great changes across the state, but there is much to do. I know that is what drives us all to continue to deliver. We are seeing small improvements in victim numbers and we have stabilised the elective surgery waitlist by Christmas, as we promised we would. In fact, we have done a little better. That is a great result for people who need health care. We have accelerated the delivery of critical infrastructure to unlock new homes sooner, all while respecting Queensland taxpayers' money.

To the staff in the Premier's office, and all ministerial offices: thank you for your service and hard work. Thank you to the staff in my Broadwater electorate office: Genevieve, Lisa and Brandon. We cannot serve in frontbench roles without our electorate staff. I thank them for the work they do.

To the Public Service: thank you for helping us deliver our priorities for Queenslanders. We promised to be a government that empowered you and listened and respected you. Know that you are respected, valued and highly appreciated by every one of us. To those who will work through while others holiday: thank you. To our emergency services personnel who were tested on so many occasions in 2025: thank you. To Queensland's dignitary protection officers who conduct your roles balancing security and democracy: thank you. To those people in retail and hospitality who will work while others do not: thank you. To the media gallery: thank you for the role you play in our democracy—mostly.

To my family: thank you for your love and support. This job is energising, but the absences are difficult. I will be glued to the TV for every ball of the Boxing Day test with you. Will you?

Mr BLEIJIE: No.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I take the interjection. Finally, to every Queenslander: this year we have faced challenges—natural disasters, cost of living and the continued effects of the crime, health and housing challenges. We lost a legend in Sir Leo Hielscher, but won respect by claiming just about every title on the sporting field. We live in the best place in the world.

As we have celebrated what makes Queensland special—our cities, our rural and regional towns, our beaches and rainforests and our proud multicultural communities—we are all reminded why we come into this place to serve. I wish every Queenslander a wonderful and safe Christmas and all the best for 2026.