



Speech By  
**Michael Healy**

**MEMBER FOR CAIRNS**

---

Record of Proceedings, 10 February 2026

## ADJOURNMENT

### Destination 2045

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (9.20 pm): The Crisafulli government's Destination 2045 tourism plan is rich in aspiration, glossy language and long-range targets—it promises that Queensland will be a global leader in ecotourism—yet behind the slogans and media statements sits a profound contradiction. The same government claiming to champion ecotourism and the Great Barrier Reef is actively pursuing environment and energy policies that undermine the very assets its tourism future depends on. In doing so, it risks turning their plan into a hollow exercise in branding—a plan disconnected from reality and credibility. At the centre of this failure is the government's decision to scrap Queensland's renewable energy targets and extend the life of aging coal-fired power stations under its new Energy Roadmap. Environmental groups, industry and climate experts have warned that this move sends Queensland backwards, locks in higher emissions and delays the clean energy transition that regional communities and tourism operators are counting on. For a government that claims ecotourism is a key focus, this policy reversal is indefensible.

Ecotourism does not exist in isolation from climate outcomes. It relies on healthy reefs, stable weather patterns, resilient ecosystems and international confidence that Queensland is a responsible steward of World Heritage environments. By delaying coal closures and increasing greenhouse emissions, the Crisafulli government is directly contributing to the very climate pressures—rising sea temperatures, coral bleaching and extreme weather—that threaten the Great Barrier Reef.

The reef is not a marketing prop. It is a \$9 billion economic engine supporting around 77,000 regional jobs and a globally recognised natural wonder that underpins Queensland's tourism brand. UNESCO has repeatedly warned that the reef's long-term outlook remains very poor and continues to consider listing it as 'World Heritage in Danger'. Such a listing would be devastating for tourism confidence, international reputation and regional employment. While the federal government is working to demonstrate credible action to UNESCO, the Crisafulli government is moving in the opposite direction. That disconnect makes a mockery of the state's claim to be rejuvenating reef islands, expanding nature-based experiences and positioning Queensland as the global ecotourism capital. You cannot market Queensland as the home of the holiday while increasing the risk of mass coral bleaching, floods, fires and heatwaves that disrupt travel and damage regional economies. Destination 2045 is not a bold vision but a case study in how to promise the world while quietly undermining the very thing that makes Queensland worth visiting.