



Speech By
Hon. Jann Stuckey

MEMBER FOR CURRUMBIN

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Currumbin Electorate, Ecotourism

 **Hon. JA STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games) (2.40 pm): As the Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games and member for Currumbin it gives me great pleasure to update the House on some exciting ecotourism initiatives happening on the southern Gold Coast, particularly in the Currumbin electorate, the gateway to Queensland. A few weeks ago I was fortunate enough to launch the Surf 2 Sky helicopter tour of our picturesque and truly remarkable 'green cauldron' landscape. This new tourism ecotour was a breathtaking experience and further evidence that we live in a truly stunning region. First we travelled north along the coastline from Point Danger to Surfers Paradise, then headed inland across luscious valleys to the top of Mount Warning before returning along the Tweed River and turning into the Gold Coast Airport. The variety and beauty of our natural and man-made attractions is truly remarkable. Tourists and locals alike will be in awe at the diversity we have to offer from our stunning beaches to our lush rainforests. I would like to acknowledge Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary CEO Jonathan Fisher, who is a tireless promoter of ecotourism in our state and a key stakeholder in this initiative coming to fruition alongside Andrew Mills from ABC Helicopters. This is a fantastic ecotourism project that is a unique and exciting way to showcase the southern Gold Coast.

In more exciting news for our region, I recently opened the aptly named Dreamridge Retreat in our exquisitely beautiful Currumbin Valley. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Shaun and Donna Williams for what they have created—living proof that dreams mixed with dedication are a powerful combination. Dreamridge is a purpose-built executive tourism accommodation facility on 24 acres with landscaped gardens and 180-degree views from Springbrook to the ocean. It really is one of a kind and so elegantly showcases our beautiful greenery. My visit is etched firmly in my mind as I recall the authentic handcrafted furniture and meaningful accessories throughout this majestic property. There is a saying in tourism: 'promise good, deliver great' and Dreamridge does exactly that and will surely surpass visitors' expectations. On Sunday, 18 May Dreamridge Retreat hosted a very successful open day that attracted hundreds of visitors keen to view the properties on Tomewin Mountain, including Kallora Bed & Breakfast, Vira Historic Residence, Tallowood Gardens and Freeman's Fruit Stall. An overwhelming feeling of tranquillity surrounds you when you view these hidden treasures that seem a world away from our beautiful beaches and that variety of options contributes to the simplicity and true beauty of our region and is no doubt a large drawcard for the many visitors to our area.

The Newman government's DestinationQ strategy highlights the importance of promoting and developing ecotourism experiences. It is an emerging and exciting niche industry and it is extremely pleasing to see some local ventures developing in this field. Queensland is committed to regaining its position as a world-class ecotourism destination.